

My uncle, mother's younger brother, was living in Shanghai. He had a big family: two wives and ten children, five from each wife. His first wife had already passed away. He lived with his second wife, five daughters and the youngest baby son. His third son, cousin Yu Qing 余庆, already married, also lived in Shanghai. Uncle and Yu Qing came to the pier to meet us when we arrived. They took us to a big fancy house at South Mouming Road 茂名南路 in the quiet neighborhood of former French Concession. It had a huge living room with piano and high quality sofas. The garden was also quite big with trees and lawn. I did not know whose house was that. My uncle and Yu Qing were living in their own house elsewhere.

We were really refugees in Shanghai. However our life in Shanghai was quite enjoyable. Even more so than at Nanjing home. The house was bigger and nicer. We always had company, and meals often ordered from restaurants. People were expecting peace talks between KMT and Communist. There were opinions that the American would not abandon Shanghai, and people often went to the Bund to see US warships coming and anchoring there. Still, a cloud of uncertainty was in the air. People were moving through Shanghai to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Southwest. The train and ship tickets were already somewhat hard to get.

My enjoyment in Shanghai lasted only two weeks. Somehow three ship tickets for Taiwan were available. At that time, my uncle's second son Tong Qing 同庆 had been in Taiwan for quite a while working in a bank, and my sister-in-law was also in Taipei. So there were relatives over there to meet those who went. It was decided that my sister, me and the eldest daughter of my uncle would make use of the ship tickets to go to Taiwan. Another consideration was our education. Taiwan should have a more stable environment for our continuing education.

Eventually, less than half a year later, the rest of the two families joined us in Taiwan, except Yu Qing and his family.

My uncle had retired long time ago. He was fairly well off. In Shanghai, he just played stocks and enjoyed life. He also played politics in a small way, joining the Democratic Socialist Party, a 'tail-party' of KMT. The DSP was so insignificant that he could be a member of the executive committee of its Shanghai branch. During the national election, the DSP was allocated a few seats in Legislative Yuan. The party authority asked him whether he would be interested in being a member if he would contribute so many gold bars to the party. In view of the precarious condition of KMT rule. He declined the offer. He was to regret to miss the opportunity. For when KMT was later settled in Taiwan, legislators became life members, because no nationwide election could be held until KMT regained the control of Mainland.

The life of Yu Qing and his family turned out to be quite miserable. He had studied law in Soochow University 东吴大学, and had held a position in Shanghai district court. That made him a counter-revolutionary when Communist came. He was imprisoned for several years. His 'baggage' was eventually cleared in 1979. His wife as a primary school teacher was practically the sole bread earner in the family to raise seven children. Her

father was a retired KMT general who was a deputy commander-in-chief during one of the anti-communist campaign back in 1930s in Jiangxi (Chiang Kai-Shek was the commander-in-chief). His name was mentioned in the footnotes in “Selected Works Mao Ze Dong”. One can imagine what kind of hardship she experienced over the years.

I was visiting Shanghai in 1987. I learned of their address from Yu Qing’s siblings, and called on them. They lived in a back alley of HuaiHai Road. Yu Qing used to be a fashionable smart young man in my memory. What I saw was an old man bearing a long life-experience of hardship. He was then 69 years old. Their oldest children, three sons, were already married and no longer living with them. Three daughters, all over thirty, unmarried, were living with them. All five grownup adults shared only one room. No kitchen. They cooked on the passage way outside their room.

In contrast to Yu Qing’s misfortune, his eldest brother was a multi-millionaire in New York in the oil tanker business. His hobby was contract bridge and he invented Precision System for bidding. He had sponsored tours of world champions to promote his system. He never went back China for visit. But his wife, herself a world champion, had been back and played bridge with Deng Xiao Ping.

Yu Qing lived not far from the house we temporarily stayed in 1949. He accompanied me to take a look. The estate had turned into a kindergarten, and we saw many kids playing in the yard.

Two years later, Yu Qing passed away.

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我舅舅（母亲的弟弟）住在上海。他有一个大家子：两任太太和十个孩子。每位太太给他生了五个孩子，第一位太太已经过世了。他和第二位太太，五个女儿以及最小的幼子住在一起。他的三儿子，余庆表哥已经结婚，也住在上海。我们抵达时舅舅和余庆表哥到码头来接我们。他们把我们带到茂名南路的一个豪宅，地处原法租界，四邻安静。有很大的客厅，里面有钢琴和高级沙发。花园也很大，有树和草坪。我不知道那曾是谁家的房子。我舅舅和余庆住在别处他们自己的房子。

我们在上海着实算得上是难民，可生活却很惬意，甚至比在南京家里还好。房子很大很好，总有人陪着，吃的饭常常是从饭店订的。人们期待着国民党和共产党进行和谈。也有的说美国不会放弃上海，人们常去外滩看美国战舰停泊到那里。可是，依旧弥漫着一种不确定的疑云。人们从上海移居到台湾、香港和西南。火车票和船票已经很难弄到。

我在上海的好日子只过了两周。不知道他们怎么弄到了三张去台湾的船票。那时，舅舅的二儿子同庆已经在台湾呆了好一段，在一家银行上班，我嫂子也在台北。因此，有亲戚接待后去那里的人。定下来我姐姐、我和舅舅的大女儿用这些票去台湾。另一个考虑是我们的教育，台湾的环境对我们的教育而言更为稳定。

半年之内，两家中的其他人最终都到了台湾，除了余庆一家。

我舅舅早就退休了，他挺有钱的。在上海，他玩玩股票，享受生活。他也小小地玩一点政治，参加国民党的一个‘尾巴党’，民主社会党。民社党很不起眼，他都能当上海分部的执委会成员。全国大选的时候，民社党得到立法院的几个席位，问他是否有兴趣并愿意捐给党一些金条。他没答应，因为觉得国民党的统治岌岌可危。他后来该遗憾没抓住这机会，国民党在台湾安顿下来后，立法委员成了终身职位，因为只有等国民党重新统治大陆才可能再次举行全国大选。

余庆的生活后来变得挺悲惨。他在东吴大学学的法律，供职于上海的区法院。共产党来了后因此打成了反革命，坐了几牢，直到 1979 年才解决了历史问题。他妻子是个小学教师，成了家里唯一一个挣钱养家的，他们有七个孩子。她父亲是国民党退役的将军，在三十年代江西剿共战役中任副总指挥（总指挥是蒋介石）。他的名字在《毛泽东选集》的注释中被提到。可以想象那些年她该多遭罪。

我 1987 年访问上海，从余庆的兄弟姐妹那里得知他的地址，并去看望他们。他们住在淮海路背后的一个小弄堂。我印象中余庆是个时髦聪明的小伙子，可我见到的却是一个经历了漫长人生磨难的老头，他当时 69 岁。他们的三个大孩子是儿子，都已结婚，不跟他们一起住。剩下五个大人住在一间房里，没有厨房，就在房间外边的走廊里做饭。

与余庆迥然不同，他的大哥做纽约的油轮生意，身缠万贯。他的业余爱好是桥牌，并发明了精确叫牌法。他出资让世界冠军周游世界，推广他的叫牌法。他自己从来没有回国访问，但他太太是个世界冠军，回国访问过并跟邓小平打过桥牌。

余庆住的离我们 1949 年的暂居处不远。他陪我过去看了看。那里变成了幼儿园，我们看到很多小孩在院子里玩。

两年之后，余庆就去世了。