

When I was four years old, the Sino-Japanese war broke out. Soon Nanjing was in danger. My father went with government to Chongking in November. Before that time, my mother with my brothers and the other sister came to Sheng Xian. I never knew them. They were strangers to me. I just refused to call that stranger “Ma Ma”. That was not excusable. I was threatened with “Jia Fa”. I do not remember how it ended. Of course I had to obey eventually. I do not remember how long they stayed in Sheng Xian. Probably two or three months. Then they went to Chongking via Wuhan. My oldest sister and I remained in Sheng Xian with our grandmother and great grandmother.

Two years later, my great grandmother passed away. She was ninety six years old. I remember I was in the class in school. Some one came to fetch me home, and she was already gone. She was a very kind old lady. Often gave me “shao bin” to eat. I do not know much about her. But according to my father, those childhood simple songs and poems he knew were instructed verbally from her.

---

我四岁那年，中日战争爆发，南京也很快成为危城。父亲随国民政府于 11 月迁到重庆。在此之前，母亲带着哥哥们和一个姐姐回到嵯县。以前没见过他们，他们对我来说完全是陌生人。我拒绝叫那个陌生人“妈妈”。这可是不可饶恕的，我被“家法”惩罚。不记得是怎样收场的，当然我最后只有服从。不记得他们在嵯县住了多久，也许两三个月吧。然后他们经武汉去了重庆。我的大姐和我留在嵯县，与祖母和曾祖母为伴。

两年后，曾祖母过世，享年 96 岁。记得当时我在学校里上课，被人接回家，她已经过世了。她非常慈祥，常常给我烧饼吃。我并不太了解她，但父亲说，他自己会的那些简单的童谣和诗歌都是她口授的。