

“The Ward Four” as Represented in BaJin’s Works

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Prologue

This Novel was written after World War II, but is still constructed as War story. There are so many episodes in the Scene that it can be called a sort of War Literature. Nevertheless it gives us some calm feelings. For this novel apparently influenced by senior Russian writer’s article before at hand.

So the Battle field symbolized in the Hospital. Twelve patients are by no means soldiers, however, they continue to struggle with their sickness. Ba Jin (1904~) using excellent technique explains the condition of their struggles for Existence sincerely. He, therefore can not help using a sort of caricature throughout all the stories. How is his thought is concretely mentioned in this work? Let’s examine story composer’s will, one by one without omission.

All the sentences of my essay’s are quoted from Nanguo Publisher’s Text with Ba Jin’s Plogue on 1945 in Chongqing and Postscript on 1960 year. The time had started writing is on 1945 and the time had ended composing on 1946. Those days just are in the midst of pre and pro War End, on The position of China is increasing by bigger and bigger at least more than 1937. But in fact China is still under the financial support of USA. Chinese Democratization is proceeding by her help. This time “America” is not yet object of hatred of China. Whereas, On 1960th Ba jin’s stand point still is on the position of petite bourgeoisie’s according to his “postscript”.

Serious injured man’s bed , in the Hospital, is settled on “the Sixth bed”. It is to be named after Chekhov “The Ward Six”.¹⁾ This naming looks to be a sort of caricature. The Sixth ward’s scene is continuously appeared in the most fatal patient’s figure.

It is BaJin’s Technique of Writing. Being different from The Russian writer’s method on the mental. While <The Ward Four> is settled in the Surgery Hospital. The Former naturally treats one person’s inner sphere, whereas The Latter also willingly treats twelve character’s inner sphere, especially treats common sphere from serious illness to mild case, applying cool and sophisticated skill. “The This ward has twenty four bed, yet had not empty one” (p25 13)

These twenty four beds patient is not all shown. Only half of them-twelve bed’s member are introduced towards reader. The most remarkable is a sixth bed’s patient who has taken serious illness. He from the beginning to the ending is remarked. He can not evacuate the bowels by

1) ЧЕХОВИАНА «Чехов и его окружение» (Москва «Наука») 1996-Палата № 6-С 123, 228, 237, 332, 384

himself. So he usually needs helper. This story's Mr. Lu is not at all looked as Hero. The Hero's character unexpectedly is fixed on the Sixth patient, until his death the story is almost be finished. Author shows the people's life in the midst of the anti Japan War, for the sound of siren is all through from chapter one to chapter eighteen, so to speak all attracts us.

In this sense, This story is settled on Warfield story. But this translation tends to be a sort of Caricature.

All my essay is shown bellow.

I. Turbulence

In this novel, the a man of sixth bed at first is called a patient named Zhu Yun-biao. He smells of piss. This patient is heavily wounded in traffic accident, injured in the nerve, so he can't move smoothly. His feces and urine is poured into the chamber pot which is brought out by the helper.

Remarque's «Im Westen Nichts Neues» starts from the Scene of meal, and explains discharge.²⁾ In the Warfield is not all to picked up. They leave their uncovered parts. This condition is in common with the hospital. In any-where man's fundamental wants is on the meal and excretion. Ba Jin also never hides their physiological phenomenon. So he in this novel starts from it's scene.

The helper's work also is to ask for patients menu and is to send them their foods according as their order. In-put and out-put is mysteriously compatible with his their action,

“Some time ago I asked for you on foods, you will not respond a little, but now again ask me for strictly. I am not at all your mansions maid.” Mr. Theng murmurs? (p17 5-6)

In the hospital the helper endures all the hardworks and diligently earns money. He is, so as to speak, a symbolic figure of capilalism. So, they are criticized by the patient.

‘ “Why does he tease me bitterly” [the sixth bed] “They, such a people, can only understand to want money, if you give him a little money, then they will change his manner quickly” [the eighth bed]’ (p17 11-16)

The nurses sometimes is hurried by the patient, ‘ “Young lady, quickly help me! Help me! [the eleventh bed]” “We orders you, not be noisy, others all ask for your silence” [miss Liu]’ (p25 16-19)

Turbulence occurs around the sixth bed. He usually cries for help because of his ache. But the liquid of Ringer's Injection heartlessly is poured into his body. A sort of water supply is accepted in human being's structure. In the war time the individual is looked at the weapon, is looked as a machine. Engine trouble for instance in airfield always is repaired under all the members in the troop.

The hero is at last happily to be recovered, whereas the sixth bed is unhappily to be bring out of ward. Life and death, at once appears naturally in the hospital and appears in the Warfield more conspicuously.

2) Hata Toyokichi «Seibu sensen yijo nashi» (Shinchosha 1950) p1-338

II. Equipment

A War's outputs is a innumerable destruction. Any soldier can not escape from Crucial attack. If he could avoid to receive fatal wound, he is not capable of accepting mental illness or any trauma. So, in general a war needs a field hospital and in certain case needs a mental hospital. Whereas, a soldier get well speedily, again make come back to war field. Getting perfectly well, not perfectly well does not matter. In short, Usable or not usable, that is a question. There a soldier is to be compared with a sort of machine, so a operation in the hospital is to be compared with a sort of exchange the parts of machine in the factory. Both of the works is carried out by the doctor and by the engineer. Examine the human lives, any one can not do without a slight cure. It is not to be compared with the machine without any defect.

In Warfield a soldier in short is to be compared with a weapon. Like as a soldier come back into the troop, air fighter or tank come back into war field after exchanging parts.

In this story the hero at first is anxious of his operation of taking off the gall, but after the success of operation he can return to his parents. of course His position is still in the native house. Nevertheless, even he is still under the struggle for existence. He is to be settled as a fresh man in the Warfield.

On the contrary, a Warfield always produces an unlucky man different from a ordinary man. Such a soldier perfectly can not at once recover to the war, and healthily can not come back to the work position. For instance this story shows two persons. The one is to be settled as a patient have cut down the right arm, he can not continue the work as a heavy laborer, and the other is to be settled up as a patient have taken off one eye, he can not continue the work as a driver. So they are equally despaired and at last select the suicide. A war often induces even a high officer into the self death. In this meaning a hospital can be compared with Warefield. From the appearance the hospital is to be look at a symbol of silence. But it is a world of noisy place and is in general compared with a war field.

III. Cleaning

In the hospital they usually keep the inside clean. The dirty goods is put away and the neat goods is put in. The dirty goods is produced as the result of the patients struggle for existence while the neat goods is equipped as the end of the member's effort for waiting for the new comer.

In the hospital a patient's death is at first found by the neighbor and then the nurse is called by him.

The ninth bed shouts, "Miss Lin, come here please, look at him, the eleventh bed, this time, he really has returned to the former residence." Miss Lin come back there, touches the patients breast, ...says "Ridiculous! Why are you so joyful! Be silent! This isn't to be congratulated." (p.105, 16-20)

The neighbor's attitude too cool for young nurse being understandable. He is accustomed to looking at a man's death. He already recognized a man's death as the appearance of dirty object. As

if, he stands on the war field, and sees off innumerable soldier's death. He is a spokesman for the fellow soldier. His attitude seems to be understandable as depends on realities in the warfield.

The hospital's equipment and exchange is swiftly carried out.

Soon Mr. Zheng let two or three laborer carry a stretcher there. They speedily perfectly pack the old man's body with a sheet, put it on the stretcher, and bring out. Mr. Zheng follows them, in his hands with wornout a wadded cloth, bed clothes, a cushion, and other goods. (p177, 14-16)

Ba Jin shows a hospital as a market place. There, capitalism acts more vividly than in War field.

"The one goes, the other come, a bed won't be eternally empty, what a wonderful business a hospital is," the eighth of the bed, silently, with small voice demonstrates". (p179, 1-2)

From the beginning to the last, a hospitals is moved. The body is to be arrived at a charnel after a sort of religious ceremony and is delivered to the dissection,

"I ask Miss Hu, "The sixth bed is now been to the internal ward...?"

"Internal? No, he is carried in the charnel", she pouts her mouth and replies, as if angrily?" (p217, 11-14)

Ba Jin simplifies the complicated condition between the hospital and the war field and sum up all the story under a sort of anarchism's tone.

IV. News

The war fields is compared with the cage by Remarque. There, any soldier can not escape from this closed time and space. On the contrary, in Ba Jin's « the Ward Four » is not perfectly closed from the out side. The news on the Anti-Japan War's condition freely enters into the patients ears and eyes. In this sense, the war field can not entirely compared with the hospital.

Chinese surrounding in the War, always is delivered towards every patients. In this sense, «the Ward Four » still keeps its character as the novel on the theme of anti war all through sentences.

In the prologue, the female model of heroine is introduced to be dead under the Japan air force's attack in the region of Jin Cheng. In this novel heroine is settled as a symbol of the hero's adoration.

The main character [the sixth bed]'s comrade's is picked up as a soldier of the independent car troops. The patient already can not move freely, but his friend occasionally calls for him in this sense. The war field still connects with the wounds. It is to be said the friend ship remains in the war field. It's details is written under Ba Jin's style. The reports on the military operations often is heard even in the Ward.

' "In these two or three days, how is the condition?" On thinking of Xiangbei's operation, I ask the neighbor. In this ward, it is difficult for us to tell freely on the War incident, here we lives as if in the inner world, even if I can not help having interest into outer world.

Mr. Xu opposes, "Not well, it is said that Chang-sha already is lost."

"Not probably. Changsha's battle, in every three cases, is not lost. How is reported in the news paper?" I can not easily believe his reports.' (p150, 16-22)

Soon, even into this narrow space, The big news is reported. The woman doctor talk about

correct news with the hero.

Between them free discussion is to be continued.

“I will show you a good news, do not you know? An allied army is to be landed on the France.”
(p163, 4-5)

But the tide of the war is always unstable.

“Doctor Yang, I hear that this times Xiang bei’s battle is not successful, is it true?” Her smile suddenly is faded away. It is true, my house is in the Heng yang village, so I can not keep my mind easy, usually worry about the condition.” (p163, 111-14)

The same dialogue done between them, in other time is also repeated.

“Doctor Yang, how is the War incidents?”

“In Europe the alliance fights well” she shortly replies. “How do they in Xiang bei?” I ask her.

“It is difficult for me to answer. The news is to be complicated.” (p206, 6-9)

The uncapability of foreseeing the concrete battle tells the reader this Ward’s reality in the secluded place.

V. Relaxation

Even in the war field any soldier does not do without thinking of his mother. He often is consoled by motherhood. All the women has motherhood and shown themselves affection toward her object. She can help and relax all the men. Any small action can console all the men. In this novel heroine is settled as a woman doctor, and she is at once to be one of members in the Hospital, and is to be one of same genders in the organization.

The hero’s eyes is always concentrated on her action. He does not over-look her slight motion. Of course she is watched for by all the patients in the Hospital. All the woman member more or less are watched for by them. As for the male patient, a woman doctor, nurse and female helper are expected as they are the Virgin Mary. Without their help, male patient can’t spend time any more.

This woman doctor has abundant elegance, nobility and intelligence. Ba Jin especially is attracted in such a character. For instance, in <The Trilogy-the Rapid Stream> he picks up a character named Qin. She is settled as a excellent lady of the Big Family in this story. Miss Yang [woman doctor’s name] sends him a book <<Tang-shi sanbai shou>>. She recognizes that it is useful for the patient’s relaxation.

“This book is for you. She delivers me the book under her left arm..... This is a <<Three hundreds Poems in Tang dynasty>>. She wants me to read this book. It is unexpected present.

“I think this book is beneficial for your health. I enjoyed it after have just abused brain’s muscle. Try to read a poem. This trial can keep your heart pure. Mind condition is important for your curing sickness.” She gently explains me. Her two eyes kindly watches for me.’ (p100 22-p10 16)

In this story this woman doctor looks cordial.

‘ “Your operation is to be carried out tomorrow morning. Are you all right?”

The reports is in fact unexpected . It is surprising for me, I can’t be delighted at this report. My

heart runs astonishingly. My safety mind is disturbed.....

“Doctor Feng will not operate tomorrow. But I inquire him to carry out the Ope earlier. From the Xray’s judging it is decided, you, does not matter.” She gently replies with full belief and swings her dark and thick hair. Looking at her kind smile, getting near her soft eye power, I become to feel encouraged. “Doctor Yang, thanks for your care.” I replie. (p121 16-p22 16)

In general there is non stopped tension, even in the field, even in the Hospital, and so also even in the ward.

Instead of Conclusion

The Chinese famous novelist BaJin so many times asks excuses for readers. “This article is the product of failure.” But, as you know, these apology is only rhetorical expression toward us. Of course all his writings must be published after having examined cautiously by himself. This story is appeared under his abundant and excellent ability.

What is the distinctive feature in «the Ward Four»? In China, today, almost intellectual adopts the view points of recollection and under this way criticize the modern origination. In general, there is the typical method is used at present day in the world. We Japanese also can not help recognizing these attempt about the incident after the Cultural Revolution. Chinese Open Marketing System promotes their emancipation of thoughts. Even in Japan, We, after the September 11th come to be confronted with a new phase not experienced before.

How and what the writer pursue as a main theme before and after the big incident? The great writer will sometimes apparently explain his stand point. On 1960, Bajin says clearly, “I do not look problems, and analyze lives from the point of dichotomy. Now, in 21st century such stand position rather become our common tendency. So we can grasp him as a man of freedom and a man of liberty. His thoughts consists of various cultural resource. He willingly decalares his direction frankly and often demonstrates modest apology cautiously. Bajin, in short, is going on his way to become a sort of writer who rely on psychology. In «The Ward Four» we can find his technique in every cases, and we can satisfy our catharsis in every stage. And he definitely attracts the reader’s mind and services all the people. So he often uses high leveled techniques on Humor, Caricature and Allegory. It is said that BaJin’s novels is easily to be understand. Although it seems like so while the feature in this style is of course made under his endless efforts, while his creation is still fully supported by the readers in all over the world.

An additional remark

Why Ba Jin particularly picks up the character as the patient of the Sixth bed? Because he can not help watching for the Number Six. As you know, this naming seems to depend on Chekhov’s «The Ward six». Of course in the «The Ward Six» the writer does not at all show the dirty scene in which patients are to be unendurable. It still looks to be his distinguished technique on

Caricature.

Whereas, Ba Jin uses this technique in the emergent case of this story. This patient [the Sixth bed] in short is to be settled as a conspicuous type.

He, from the beginning to the best, keeps bothering neighbors around his bed. Of course, as a Whole, he usually is supported by the whole members of the hospital and by visiting helpers and assistants in the emergency such as bringing out and throwing away 'dirty goods.'

In general the hospital represents whole world under the writer's method on allegory. Chekhov «The Sixth Ward» does not always use unclean place in his novels. His interest is concentrated on the Hero's state of mind. Naturally this selection is influenced under the Russian 19th century's Aristocratic mood.

On the other hand, BaJin's scene is picked up out of the Complexity under the Anti Japan War periods in China. Generally speaking, the War makes all the people be uncovered out of concealed place. Comparing BaJin's expression with Chekhov writing, BaJin's world in a sense looks like more realistic than Chekhov. As for BaJin, he pickes up the war vividly, and his technique is indispensable of the destructive circumstances. The Hospital, as a place is to be seen static and serene, but the operation incessantly is carried out seriously. The patient is 'repaired' under the hands of all members of the Hospital. In the huge operation, the important parts of human body is cut off. Anyone can not easily resist against phisician's order.

Every man, sooner or later, will be to rely on the hospital, lie in the bed and soon wait for his death. Each patient case, so to speak, shows every man's live's each stage. Indeed, the Hospital is the miniature copy of all the people who are to be as a warrior in the War field of Struggle for Existence.