

Private Writer VS. Private Doctor

--Qi Benyu criticizes the memoir of Li Zhisui

Interviewer: editor of "Dallas Chinese Daily" Lu Yuan, Compiled by Zhong Zhilin

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Once the "private writer" of Mao Zedong, the former member of the Central Cultural Revolution Committee Qi Benyu now lives a modest life. He doesn't see reporters, doesn't discuss politics, and doesn't write memoirs. The editor of "Dallas Chinese Daily" Lu Yuan is like a son to him and he's a close friend of Qi Benyu. Recently, Lu Yuan went to Mainland China for a business trip, the two met and was discussing the past. During the conversation Lu Yuan asked Qi Benyu about his opinions on the book "The Private Life of Chairman Mao" written by Li Zhisui. Qi Benyu resolutely refuted Li Zhisui, and revealed many hidden historical information regarding the Cultural Revolution and the Party Centre of the CPC.

Lu: Recently, Taiwan and the US released a memoir by Mao Zedong's private doctor Li Zhisui, this book was a big hit outside China, I wonder if you have read it?

Qi: Yes, a friend of mine brought it back from Japan, before discussing this issue; I'll have to "clear one's name", as Confucius would put it. Mao Zedong never had private doctors. Mao's doctors, nurses and secretaries were all "public". Li Zhisui was originally a doctor in the clinic in Zhongnanhai, Beijing. When I first started working in Zhongnanhai in 1950, he was responsible for treating the cadres and workers in Zhongnanhai. He was a "foreign doctor" who studied abroad, so he was more skilled than the local doctors trained in the PLA, moreover, he treated patients with care and was very responsible, and had a lot of theoretical knowledge, so people

wanted to find him when they were sick, and he got popular and was made a model worker. He was treating the head of the Security Bureau in Zhongnanhai, Wang Dongxing and he did a great job, Wang Dongxing liked him, so he was recommended to care for Mao Zedong. At first it was not official; it was around 1957 when the Rectification Campaign began when he was formally made Mao Zedong's health doctor. I remember it was the afternoon of May the 3rd, 1958, when I was called in to join a meeting in Mao Zedong's residence in Juxiang Shuwu, I saw him on duty in the office with Mao Zedong's confidential secretary Xu Yefu and head of security Li Yinqiao besides Mao Zedong's bedroom.

Mao Zedong was not a “Feudal Emperor”

Lu: Li Zhisui said Mao Zedong was not some leader of the proletariat, but a despotic feudal emperor, his rule brought countless disasters onto the Chinese people, he said his memoir is a “historical account of the suffering of the common Chinese people under the totalitarian rule of Mao”. What is your opinion on this?

Qi: although Li Zhisui worked besides Mao Zedong for many years, but he was a health doctor, and lacked political knowledge, so he when he tried to attack Mao Zedong for whatever reason, he could only regurgitate what others have said, follow the tide and say he was a feudal emperor, this is nothing strange. What is a feudal emperor? A feudal emperor is a hereditary ruler who oppresses the peasants, and protects the rule of the landlords. Who is Mao Zedong? He is a great character and the only one in Chinese history who successfully led the hundreds of millions of peasants in China to topple the rule of the landlords. He called himself a “peasant ringleader” when he was young, and was rebelling against the landlords all his life, he was the greatest bane of feudal emperors, the biggest rebel in the two millennium of feudal society. Saying Mao Zedong was a feudal emperor is as ridiculous as saying a deer is a horse, or black is

white. Saying Mao Zedong was “despotic” was also baseless! I guess Li Zhisui never saw how the Beiyang warlords, the Japanese collaborators or the Kuomintang government used guns and cannons to suppress the peasants, workers and students. Mao Zedong took up arms and waged a revolution to struggle with these despotic criminal scums. The Soviet government, Anti-Japanese democratic government and the democratic government in the liberated areas Mao Zedong established during the course of the Revolution were applauded by even American journalists like Snow and Strong, saying they were the first democratic governments in Chinese history, after the Chinese revolution, the government of the People’s Republic of China set up by Mao Zedong, despite some shortcomings in democratic establishment, was still the most democratic in Chinese history. Besides the special period during the Cultural Revolution, all the major decisions of this government was passed after they were discussed in meetings required by the law; even during the Cultural Revolution, where the various levels of government collapsed, the major decisions of the Party and the country was still decided by meetings in the Central Committee and the State Council. Since it was through a legal process, you can’t call it despotic! However, in that time, due to Mao Zedong’s prestige, many decisions were made according to his wishes, but since there were legal processes, you can’t call him a despot. You can say the democracy was incomplete and unhealthy, or even harshly criticize it, but you can’t just equate it to emperors doing whatever he wished in the feudal times. Mao Zedong was not flawless when it comes to the theory and practice of the party and the state’s democratic system, but he was still an explorer and a practitioner of the theory and practice of democracy of the party and the state. He could have a thousand downfalls and errors, but at the end of his days, he still loved and cared for his people. Mao Zedong was quite impressed with the bourgeois democracies in Britain, France, America, etc, he said to us once: “we would rather take the democracy of Britain and American than to take the road of Fascism or Beria.” Fascism

referred to the dictatorship of the National Socialist Party in Germany under Hitler, Beria referred to the rule of the secret police in the former Soviet Union where the NKVD randomly arrested and killed people. A feudal emperor was a hereditary ruler, but we don't see Mao Zedong passing his positions to his wife or children. Even though Jiang Qing was very power-hungry, Mao Zedong still proposed to have a discussion in the Central Politburo, nominating Hua Guofeng as his successor. His children had no privileges, before his death, his only surviving son Mao Anqing was an average translator, the two daughters he had, the older one is an average technical cadre, and the younger one is a leading member in a party organ. Mao Zedong controlled all the wealth of China, but besides some commission from his books his children got nothing. Was there ever a feudal emperor like this?

Not Easy Working for “Cao Cao”

Qi: I first met Mao Zedong in the 50s, and left Mao Zedong in the 60s. From my interactions with him, I don't feel he was less democratic than other leaders I have worked with. From the “Eight Simas” case Li Zhisui mention, at the time many leaders in the Central Committee thought the young people (the “Eight Simas”) were anti-party because they criticized the leadership of the General Office, Mao Zedong was the only one who said: “the young people can criticize the leadership of the General Office, if that's anti party, then I'll be anti-party as well, I'll take the punishment with them.” The “Eight Simas” who were struggled against for months cried after hearing this from Mao Zedong! Even Li Zhisui had to admit Mao Zedong respected him, and was equal with him (he attacked this saying it was superficial and fake), sometimes apologizing to him after wronging him. He said Mao Zedong often said: “Not easy working for Cao Cao is it!” The story is definitely real. Mao Zedong often said this when apologizing to his subordinates, meaning that he was like Cao Cao, always changing his mind and wronging people. Li Zhisui

attacked Mao Zedong saying that the General Line, the Great Leap Forward and the People's Communes he supported brought disaster onto the Chinese people, this problem, that is the General Line, the Great Leap Forward and the People's Communes, at the time called the "Three Red Flags", its development, achievements and errors, historical criticism against it, will need a specialized work to tackle fully. Anger and attacks, they are no good for understanding history, and no good for the progression of history. Of course, based on his current knowledge, it's impossible for us to demand Li Zhisui explain it clearly. I just hope the world will not forget, Mao Zedong spent as much effort correcting the problems of the "Three Red Flags" as he did advocating for it, the first to suggest the whole party cool their heads, the first demanding truths from the local levels, the first to opposing entering communism too early, were all none other than Mao Zedong himself. It was Mao Zedong who felt guilty for the hardships people had to endure, punishing himself by not eating any meat. It's well-known that the daily life of Mao Zedong was no better than a small boss in today, he never ate anything fancy, a bowl of braised pork was his greatest enjoyment, how much more could he have punished himself! Under the leadership of the Party and Mao Zedong, in the mid-60s, the rural economy finally recovered, in the Book of Change it says: "One who makes no mistake is one who corrects his mistakes." Mao Zedong was at least someone "who correct his mistakes"! Under Li Zhisui's pen, China during the Great Leap Forward and the People's Commune was the land of suffering, countless starved to death and dead bodies were everywhere. That's just ridiculous, the downsides and errors of the Great Leap Forward and the People's communes, as well as manmade and natural disasters, did caused suffering to the Chinese people, but it wasn't all dark like what Li Zhisui wrote, at the time, me, Tian Jiaying, Lin Ke from group one, Ye Zilong, Li Zhisui, etc were all working hard with the Chinese people under the directives of Mao Zedong, we all know how hard it was, so why do you have to exaggerate! From the late 50s onwards, China has a population census every year,

the statistics are by and large correct, if the Great Leap Forward and the People's Communes really did "littered the plains with nothing but bones", then where did the 800 million Chinese come from? Perhaps they were the Dead Souls in Gogol's novel, China would have no problem with population, then why do you need the one child policy?

Copied the Wrong Secrets of the Cultural Revolution

Lu: The third chapter in Li Zhisui's memoir is about the Great Cultural Revolution, the foreigners think this is authentic history of the Cultural Revolution, what are your thoughts on this?

Qi: Li Zhisui said the Great Cultural Revolution was purely a power struggle between Mao Zedong and Liu Shaoqi, authentic history of the Cultural Revolution could never come from such vulgar understandings, even though in all major historical events, the struggle between two thoughts and two worldviews are very often materialized in the form of "power struggle" between the two leading characters. We can say that on the historical origin of the Cultural Revolution, its historical necessity and contingency, and all of the historical intricacies, Li Zhisui hasn't even begun exploring them. I was under investigation from January of 1968, and so was not part of the whole Cultural Revolution, but I did attend the early events of the Cultural Revolution, so I was familiar with what happened then. Based on my understandings, Li Zhisui's only job was to treat Mao Zedong, Jiang Qing and the group during the early days of the Cultural Revolution, He wasn't a member of the Cultural Revolution Group, nor did he work in the Cultural Revolution Group office, he was quite far from the eye of the Cultural Revolution storm, so there's no way he can understand all that many secrets of the Cultural Revolution, it's laughable for him to be providing first-hand accounts of the Cultural Revolution to us, as I see it, besides the Support-the-Left Campaign that he was a part of, everything else in his memoir was

stitched together from others' writings and existing documents. As he was stitching, to entertain the crowd and convince us he was really part of the secrets, he faked scenes, making his memoir riddled with mistakes. Let's talk about the first thing he wrote on the Cultural Revolution, the "February Outline", he claimed to be part of the Cultural Revolution Five-Men Group meeting in Wuhan on the 8th of February, 1967, and Mao Zedong spoke on the event, but in his book, we can see that the whole speech was ripped off from the speech Mao Zedong made in December 21st, 1966, compiled by Guan Feng and Ai Siqi, if you really were part of the high-level meeting on the 8th of February, then isn't it funny for you to plagiarize Mao Zedong's speech in that meeting from a record a few months ago! Then, Li Zhisui went on to say that: "Peng Zhen said, should we write up a central commentary for the whole Party, after the Chairman approves it. Mao said, you go and write, I'm not reading it. I knew there and then that trouble (Peng Zhen and Lu Dingyi's trouble) is coming, Mao Zedong had set a trap." In fact, Mao Zedong, Jiang Qing and Kang Sheng didn't know what Peng Zhen was up to then, and they didn't study the "February Outline" closely, Mao Zedong and Jiang Qing still wanted to open up the scene of the Cultural Revolution with the help of Peng Zhen, Jiang Qing even told Peng Zhen about the leftist forces in Beijing she was in contact with, and told him to find Qi Benyu, Guan Feng and Li Xifan when he got back, so Peng Zhen demanded Guan Feng and Qi Benyu be there when he was in a meeting in Beijing. It was after the suppression of leftist articles in Beijing, did Mao Zedong turn back and studied the "February Outline" closely, and found out it was a document on suppressing academic criticisms.

Li Zhisui Bit Off More Than He Could Chew

Qi: Not only was Li Zhisui's book a "prophecy", he knew things "three years in advance", meaning he knew Mao Zedong was setting a trap up for Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping. Other

Details that were made up are uncountable, like saying the members to the Central Cultural Revolution Group was proposed by Lin Biao, or that the Central Cultural Revolution Group planned to take down Wang Dongxing at the end of 1966, etc, it's all nonsense! And there was the Wuhan Incident, he didn't even know the sequence of events, yet he still made random comments about it, you just have to compare his memoir with the memoir of other people at the scene to see through his plot holes. The central organs of the CPC, especially the organs working in Zhongnanhai, have very strict discipline. The job of a health doctor is to ensure the health of the leaders; he can't take part in party and state secrets. Not only is the Communist Party like this, even the so-call democratic American Republican and Democratic parties, would probably not allow a health doctor to know all their top secrets! Besides, Mao Zedong's attitude towards doctors, as well as most intellectuals who drank "foreign ink", was always "keep at a respectful distance". This was always a weakness of Mao, many people know this, it can help us judge the position Li Zhisui Had in Zhongnanhai. Li Zhisui said boldly in his memoir, he was not only a routine attendant of central meetings involving state and party top secrets, he could even attend meetings where only members of the Politburo could attend, and he was seated beside Mao Zedong, Peng Zhen and the others, how terrific! In fact Mao Zedong had more than Li Zhisui as his health doctor, before Li Zhisui, there were at least five or six, including Mao Zedong's most trusted old Red Army cadre, head of the Ministry of Health Bo Lianzhang, not one of them was part of the any Central Politburo meetings involving state secrets. No just doctors, even Mao Zedong's secretaries, guards, not even his most trusted old party members like the director of the confidential room Ye Zilong and head of the Security Bureau Wang Dongxing could be listed on the participants of a meeting of the Central Politburo, and they were cadres from the Long March! When the Central Politburo had meetings, Ye Zilong and Wang Dongxing might come in at check up on the members, but they can only stand on the side and watch. Until

the Cultural Revolution, the Central Committee listed Wang Dongxing as a participant of the Central Cultural Revolution Group meetings, by then Wang was given a seat at the back when the Central Politburo had meetings. A doctor, a new party member, could be listed in meetings where only a few members of the Central Politburo could attend, sit beside Mao Zedong and other central leaders, “boasting” to this extent, Li Zhisui is very immodest to say the least. Not only was Li Zhisui not allowed to participate in central meetings where state and party secrets were discussed, even normal meetings of the Central Committee would have excluded him. Li Zhisui claimed he was part of the meeting on the investigation on the “Eight Simas” case chaired by Mao Zedong, and he even made notes. In fact, the attendants of that meeting were all directors of central organs, the lowest ranking attendant was me. Besides Lin Ke’s and Peng Dazhang’s (he was one of the heads of the General Office) simple meeting programs, there were no other records. Li Zhisui was never part of that meeting. Li Zhisui’s “record” was mostly stitched-up hearsay, he said: “Mao said, during the Emperor Shunzhong of Tang, Wang Shuwen, Liu Yuanzong and six others wanted strengthen the country by changing its laws”, and so on, this is false. The Two Kings and Eight Simas Mao Zedong was talking about was Wang Shuwen and Wang Pei, Liu Zongyuan, Liu Yuxi, etc, respectively. Mao Zedong was well-read in history, of course he would not mixed up the Two Kings and the Eight Simas, Li Zhisui, who claimed to have read the “Twenty-Four Histories”, couldn’t even get the common sense right, and he dared to “put words in the sage’s mouth” so to speak, in that sense, I can rest easy knowing that I am not disturbing a great intellectual.

Mao Zedong Did have an Affaire

Lu: Li Zhisui said Mao Zedong was “addicted to the pleasures of song and women, hunting and racing”, “lived a life of decadence”, “treated women as his playthings”, “was enthusiastic about

using the sexual tricks of Taoism”, he requested large number of beautiful young girls into his palace, “women come and go like dishes”, several of them slept on the same bed, so he could play with all of them. Are these the truth? Feel free to not answer if you don’t want to, I want to know the facts, so don’t lie “out of respect”!

Qi: Mao Zedong was my teacher, he was also my bane. 18 years of revolution, was under the leadership of Mao Zedong; 18 years of jail, even though it was Jiang Qing and Wang Dongxing who framed me, Mao Zedong was still the one who called the shots. “Xiao He was his rise and his downfall” as the old saying goes. Our differences are clear, there is nothing I won’t say “out of respect”, as a matter of fact, I have a responsibility to say the truth, keeping silence is just not who I am. Actually, before you raised this question, I have explained it to many people, that Li Zhisui’s accusation against Mao saying he was playing with women is a lie and fabrication. However, most people who read Li Zhisui’s memoir believed his lies and fabrications, not my explanations. Only an American doctor, Ms. Hu Dingyi, believed me. She said: “Qi Benyu was locked up by Mao Zedong for 18 years, if he knows the truth, there’s no reason for him to cover for Mao Zedong.” Ms. Hu’s only reservation was that maybe Qi Benyu just never heard of these things, but that’s very unlikely, because he lived besides Mao Zedong for many years, if there are truths, but he never even heard of it, it’s unimaginable. It’s a pity that most people are not rational like Ms. Hu, most people have their preconceived notions, only believe Li Zhisui and think I was whitewashing Mao Zedong. It really is a pity! Good-willed people are the most easily tricked, a story by a writer can earn their tears and money, how can they see through someone who is dedicated to fabricating history! I was elevated to work in the Political Secretariat of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, at first I was an apprentice secretary, then a secretary, a section chief, a secretary of a party branch, etc. On a side note, Li Zhisui said the director of the Political Secretariat was Chen Boda, he got that wrong, Chen Boda was never the

director of the Political Secretariat, the first director of the Political Secretariat was Shi Zhe, the deputy directors were Jiang Qing and Tian Jiaying. After Shi Zhe, Tian Jiaying became the director, with Peng Yuanchang, He Zai, Chen Bingchen, etc, as the deputy directors. After Tian Jiaying had issues, I became the director, in April of 1966, the Political Secretariat was integrated into the Central Secretary Bureau, with Tong Xiaopeng as the director and me as the deputy director. The Central Political Secretariat was also Mao Zedong's secretariat, so when I was in position, I had many interactions with Mao Zedong's group. Ye Zilong, Jiang Ying, Xu Yefu, Lin Ke, Wang Dongxing, Wang Jingxian, Li Yinqiao, Shen Tongm Wang Yuqing, Gao Zhi, Wu Xujun, etc, I was all familiar with them, and were on good terms with them too, I have never seen, or heard anything or anyone saying Mao Zedong was playing with women. Mao Zedong lived a modest life, there was no "addicted to the pleasures of song and women, hunting and racing", or "decadence". Great people have desires just like normal people, as far as I'm aware, many great people made the mistake of having affairs just like the common people, even though I believe everyone should restrict their private lives in a socially acceptable bound, but I don't think this is "decadence". So, if I saw or heard anything like this about Mao Zedong, I will say it, but I really did not see or hear anything like this about Mao Zedong during my career, so all I can say is there's nothing, I don't have to falsify for Mao Zedong on this issue, falsification in the court of history not only damages history, but also the falsifier. Falsifiers and fabricators of history are the same, they have lost personhood in the real world and will stink throughout history. In reality, on the issue of private life, the thing we can criticize about Mao Zedong is not the lies Li Zhisui made up, but his wedding with He Zizhen on the Jinggang Mountains, because when they got married, the marriage between Mao Zedong and Yang Kaihui was still in effect. Truthfully, I asked Zhou Enlai about this history in the summer of 1966, Zhou Enlai's answer was that people in Jinggang Mountain heard that Yang Kaihui was already murdered by the Kuomintang

reactionaries. General Zhu De had similar situations, the Central Committee already explained these questions at the time.

A Bed Not Large for Even One Person

Qi: In the 50s Mao Zedong lived in three big rooms North of Juxiang Shuwu, facing the South, the two rooms to the East and West are some thirty square meters each, occupied by Mao Zedong and Jiang Qing respectively, the middle room is less than twenty square meters, that was the duty room of the guards, secretaries, nurses and servers. In Mao Zedong's room, there was a large bed in the middle, more than half of the bed was covered in books, later on Mao lived beside the swimming pool, inside the room was still a bed half-covered in books. These beds weren't large for even one person, how could he sleep with several women and play with them all at once! Li Zhisui's lie is just too ridiculous! Mao Zedong was the Leader of the country, with immense prestige, he cared about his image, Li Zhisui agreed on this point. Even a common person will try to hide their affairs, Mao Zedong, who cared for his public image very much, exposed his secrets to Li Zhisui just like that, and even discussed his illegal sexual affairs with him, can this be the truth? Mao Zedong had all those subordinates, secretaries, why didn't he expose his secrets with them, but told Li Zhisui everything! Mao Zedong's room wasn't locked, and was never locked. The guards, secretaries, nurses and servers were just outside in the duty room, this duty room was active all day long, people were there 24/7, every activity was recorded, if Mao Zedong was not asleep, every once in a while the guards, nurses and servers would deliver documents, hot towels, tea and medicine in, whatever Mao Zedong did, the people outside knew. I want to ask, in this environment, how could Mao Zedong play "Taoist sexual tricks"? How were women "delivered in like dishes"?

No Secret Deals Between Mao and Jiang

Qi: Not long after the Cultural Revolution began, I was appointed Mao Zedong's secretary, when Mao Zedong was out, I stayed back in Zhongnanhai as its manager (the acting director of the General Office). I went to Mao Zedong's place often, sometimes at night, why had I not seen the erotic images Li Zhisui described to us there! On the contrary, I did see Mao Zedong giving female comrades respect. Including the nurse Wu Xujun who was in contact with him day and night, Mao Zedong was very respectful of her. I worked in Zhongnanhai for a very long time, so I am familiar with all the servers in Zhongnanhai, some of them were exceptionally pretty young girls, they were very happy to deliver water or hot towels for Mao Zedong, they often told me "What a great man the Chairman is, not only is he great politically, he also lived modestly". Mao Zedong respected them very much, sometimes asking about their names and family, spoke a few words of encouragement. A few of the girls also helped me tidy up my office, and they told me everything. They said they were bullied and wanted to complain to me, sometimes they would complain to me about people harassing them. They named several people who harassed them, the most serious case was done by a friend of Li Zhisui, but they never spoke of Mao Zedong harassing them. Li Zhisui found out what his friend did, and went on to pin it on Mao Zedong. You have different political opinions, that's understandable; but why do you have to twist the facts? The most dirty lie Li Zhisui made up was a secret deal between Mao Zedong and Jiang Qing, Jiang Qing would allow Mao to screw with women, in return Mao would allow Jiang Qing to participate in the Cultural Revolution, killing two birds with one stone this is, attacked Mao Zedong and Jiang Qing at the same time, but since the deal between Mao and Jiang was secret, how did you, Li Zhisui, know about it? Were you a parasite living in their stomachs? Besides, Mao Zedong and Jiang Qing were not simple individuals, whatever they did was under the eyes of the party, the masses, and especially under the surveillance of their political enemies

both inside and outside of China, there was no way they could have struck up a deal like this. In the decades of revolutionary history, no one has ever found Mao trading the party principles for personal gains. Despite all the mistakes of Jiang Qing, it was hard for her to change her shrewish attitudes, she was like Nora, from "A Doll's House", like Jing Wen from "Dream of the Red Chamber", she was even jealous for the long dead Yang Kaihui, I can't imagine her striking up any deals with Mao Zedong on issues like this! I believe, saying Mao Zedong was a "despotic feudal emperor", saying the Cultural Revolution was just a "struggle between Mao and Liu", just shows Li Zhisui's ignorance and vulgarity in political concepts. As a doctor who studied abroad, living in the center of political power in a large country, he might have had millions of opinionated "hot takes", but there were nowhere for him to express them, so as soon as he found a channel, his suppressed political showmanship erupted, he thought he became a political commentator overnight. When you're full of yourself, it's easy for you to forget who you really are, and so twisting facts is inevitable. On this, I can still somewhat understand. What I can't take is Li Zhisui using his identity as Mao Zedong's health doctor, fabricating Mao Zedong's "fake private life", and cheated the world. This is not the emotional need of a normal person, but the catharsis of a morally bankrupted person, the pornography and dirty things Li Zhisui wrote are in fact taken from pornographic magazines in street vendors, what's different is that pornographic magazines can't make up more names beside Jiang Qing, Zhang Yufeng and some movie stars, Li Zhisui worked in group one for years after all, he knew the names of many female servers and workers in the confidential room, he has more to lie about than pornography magazines, he also knew how to boast, posing as some big shot close to Mao Zedong to put people in awe, so they will believe his fabricated lies as the truth. Zeng Can the murderer, Mao Zedong the playboy, these are the two biggest historical myths, both of them make you think.

Lu: Li Zhisui's memoir mentioned you about seven or eight times, he said you went to Shanghai in March of 1966 to help Chen Boda and Jiang Qing draft the "May...(unintelligible)?"

Qi: I don't need Li Zhisui speaking for me. I actively, willingly and consciously threw myself into the Great Cultural Revolution led by Mao Zedong without hesitation, I did this with the fervor of building a socialist utopia in China, even though I was only a part of it for one and a half year, but I hold responsibility for everything done in this one and a half year, I was no "scapegoat". My experience in the Cultural Revolution was contingent, but the Cultural Revolution was destined to happen under the historical circumstances, no one can dodge it. You can stay in bed for the next day, but the sun will still rise, there's nothing you can do. Our great nation, can only become mature after great suffering, history can only sigh! However, Li Zhisui's memories about me was also ripped out of irresponsible "reality literatures". March 1966 I was the head of the "Red Flag" journal history section, I was not the head of the General office's Secretary Bureau, that was later. August 1967 I was still working in the Central Cultural Revolution Group, I was not arrested then. Others can say and make up whatever they want, but Li Zhisui, you lived in Zhongnanhai, during the "Eight Simas" incident you backed me and Lin Ke, we talked a lot, I would even call you my friend, how could you make stuff up about me!

Framing Liu Shaoqi is Ridiculous

Lu: Li Zhisui said in the memoir that Mao treated him well, why would he write something like this?

Qi: I heard from a friend of mine, who was visiting their relatives, that Li Zhisui's memoir didn't look like this at first, but the publisher demanded it with a large sum of money for it to be changed. If this rumor is true, then this book is just like any other anti-communist pamphlets

wrote for a political goal, it's nothing more than the product of certain politics, and Li Zhisui is nothing more than Judas who sold his teacher for thirty silver coins. But I'm not satisfied by just painting Li Zhisui as a despicable Judas. He was never a true disciple of Jesus. He was the descendent of the royal doctor of a feudal emperor, a freelancer cultivated under Western Liberal traditions. The Communist ideology never suited him, the decision to return was a mistake in his life. This decision was at odds with his personal aspirations, values and worldview. Of course, these analysis is based on what he did, Li Zhisui could never see himself this clearly. In philosophy, his thoughts are shallow, extremely shallow, just like my medical knowledge is shallow compared to him. Making someone like this out to be someone "in the know", make him babble on about "secret scandals" mysteriously at people's ears, this is laughable. I can't say there are no truths in Li Zhisui's memoir, no, he wrote truths, especially things he experienced and were not at odds with what he was trying to do, on these he wrote very well, very realistic. Like Mao Zedong's attitude towards his illnesses, bugging the room besides Mao Zedong's, and Mao Zedong's stubbornness in struggling with the waves of Yangtze and the ocean, as well as some of his discriptions about the identity and deeds of people like Jiang Qing and Wang Dongxing, it's not only real as a whole, even the scenes are real. But whenever it comes to political analysis and reporting, he turned aside, real history and his political leaning became opposites. Even if it's everyday events, if it's related to politics, his writing would be warped. Like how he said Mao Zedong tried to get rid of Liu Shaoqi's healthcare in the early 60s, so he would die of illnesses, this is such an over-the-top myth! Li Zhisui said his memoir is an "historical account" of the "ruined lives of the Chinese people". Ironically, as Li Zhisui's memoir became bestseller in foreign countries, the average people of China spontaneously started a "Red Sun Fever". Tens of thousands of old workers, old farmers and youths who were just in the

mountains and down in the countryside, faithfully mourn for their long-dead leader, singing the praises of Mao Zedong again and again.

Plagiarism Sees One's True Colors

Qi: The tens of millions of lives Li Zhisui thought Mao Zedong “ruined”, is now remembering their leader in a “Red Sun fever” all over China, without any leading public opinions or any organizational directives. How will Li Zhisui explain this? Li Zhisui was proud of all the lies he created in his foreword, but these lies are nothing new to the Chinese people! Sometimes ago, publications attacking Mao Zedong was the trend for a while. Li Zhisui’s book is very similar to Lin Qingshan’s “Jiang Qing’s Confidential Secretary”, not only are they similar, there are hints of the former plagiarizing the latter, the difference is Lin Qingshan was never Mao Zedong’s health doctor, so he couldn’t fabricate “life experiences”, so he had to use Qi Benyu’s and Yuan Changgui’s mouth to call Mao Zedong a feudal emperor. Qi Benyu saw the book and got very angry, and sued him in the Beijing People’s Court, but the Court ignored me. After Lin Qingshan’s lies are exposed by Qi Benyu and Yuan Changgui, no one believe him anymore, but Li Zhisui is different, he was Mao Zedong’s health doctor, who could have thought he was as much of a liar as Lin Qingshan! Li Zhisui not only attacked Mao Zedong, besides some like Peng Dehuai, he saw no one positively. Even the well-respected Zhou Enlai was Mao Zedong’s “loyal hound” and “Slave”, he felt “disgusted”, and he even saw Zhou Enlai kneeling in front of Mao Zedong when he was reporting. Well well well! I saw Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai discuss state affairs dozens of times, why have I not seen it, why did Li Zhisui got to see all the good stuff! There’s more, Deng Yingchao was a “slimy character”, “extremely selfish”, and he felt “disgusted”, I don’t even have to mention the others, all corrupted to the core.....Was Li Zhisui just attacking Mao Zedong?

[Note: This record was not read by Qi Benyu prior to release, the compiler will bear all responsibility —Zhong Zhilin]