

**Liu Hu-lan**

生的偉大  
死的光榮

毛澤東題

A great life ! A glorious death !

*Mao Tsetung*

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# *Liu Hu-lan*

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This is Yunchouhsi Village in Wenshui County of China's Shansi Province. Before its liberation, the life of the peasants there was miserably poor. During the anti-Japanese war the Eighth Route Army led by Chairman Mao came, giving the people a pillar of strength.



Soon, under the leadership of the Communist Party, an anti-Japanese democratic government was set up in Wenshui County, with the Party member Ku Yung-tien as the county head. One day Comrade Ku came to Yunchouhsi to explain to the peasants Chairman Mao's instructions on resisting Japanese aggression and saving the nation, and called on them to get organized for resistance. Liu Hu-lan asked Comrade Ku many questions. Comrade Ku answered by telling Hu-lan and her friends some revolutionary stories.





After Comrade Ku came to this area, a Party branch, a Peasants' Association and a Children's Corps were formed in Yunchouhsi, and the resistance work was stepped up. Eighth Route Army men often called on the villagers, and little Hu-lan asked them to tell more stories. Some of the fighters told about the Red Army on the Long March led by Chairman Mao; others told about combat heroes. Liu Hu-lan loved Chairman Mao and admired the heroes. She said to herself, "I'll join the Eighth Route Army when I grow up."



When Liu Hu-lan was ten she joined the anti-Japanese Children's Corps. It was a time when the enemy was launching frequent mopping-up campaigns against the people. Hu-lan often went with her spear and stood guard while her friend Yu-mei gathered wild greens.



One morning, Liu Hu-lan saw a flock of birds suddenly fly up from the roadside near an enemy pillbox. In the distance she saw Japanese soldiers coming and thought to herself: The village cadres are meeting at Old Tien's home. I must hurry back and tell them at once. A man unexpectedly appeared from behind and asked where Old Tien lived. Hu-lan did not trust the man, and since the Japanese were approaching, she pointed in the opposite direction. "He lives over there," she said.



Hu-lan ran at once to report the matter. The cadres quickly hid their documents and went into the mountains till the danger was over.





No sooner had the cadres left the village than the man Hu-lan had run into, a traitor, led the aggressors into Old Tien's courtyard. Angry at finding no one there, the Japanese slapped the traitor's face. Then, on their way back to the pillbox, they fell into the ambush of the village militia, whose mines killed and wounded many of the enemy and threw them into confusion. Hu-lan became known for her struggle against the Japanese invaders.



To be of more help in the work against Japanese aggression, Liu Hu-lan studied hard and learned to read and write, and to sing anti-Japanese songs. She also did propaganda work in neighbouring villages. At home, she taught her little sister to read.



The Japanese invaders occupied the county town and turned it into a strong-point. They killed, burned and looted, plunging the people into deep suffering. The Eighth Route Army often sent scouts to the county town to locate enemy positions so as to hit them hard and liberate the town. Once Hu-lan went along with a scout and helped in the work.



With their information the Eighth Route Army soon liberated Wenshui county town. The villagers celebrated the victory by beating drums and gongs. Hulan and her young friends presented the Eighth Route Army men with a basket of red dates.





In October 1945, after the victory in the war of resistance, Hu-lan enrolled in the training class for women cadres organized by the county Party committee. Though she had little schooling, she studied very hard.



Liu Hu-lan loved the Party and Chairman Mao and had made up her mind to be a Communist. Matured in war and sharp class struggle, she was admitted into the Communist Party as a probationary member. Before the Party flag she pledged: "I'll never yield to difficulty or submit to the enemy. I'll struggle resolutely for communism."



After finishing the training course she returned to the village where she did propaganda work among the women. With the masses' support and the Party's trust, Liu Hu-lan was elected Women's Association head and became active in organizing women for revolutionary work.



In May 1946, land reform was carried out upon the call of the Party Central Committee. The poor and lower-middle peasants were overjoyed to hear that the landlords' crimes would be publicly denounced, their land distributed and the feudal exploiting system abolished. An accusation meeting was to be held to denounce the village landlord Shih Ting-huai. But Shih Wu-tse, clerk of the Peasants' Association, had been bought over by the landlord and took his side. Liu Hu-lan reasoned with Shih Wu-tse and then struggled against him.





Hu-lan next visited the poor peasant families of the village, making investigations. At Uncle Li's home she explained the Party's policy on land reform and persuaded him to speak at the accusation meeting, telling his bitterness as a farmhand of the landlord Shih Ting-huai.



Uncle Li indignantly denounced the landlord at the meeting. The people's anger was aroused. "Down with the landlord Shih Ting-huai!" they shouted, their voices thundering through the village.



Victory in the land reform movement raised the masses' political enthusiasm to a new high. Young men rushed to join the army, while Liu Hu-lan organized the women for work to support the front, such as delivering grain, making shoes for the soldiers and spinning yarn.



In 1946 Chiang Kai-shek, backed by U.S. imperialism, launched civil war. When liberation forces surrounded the enemy at Tungchuang Village, Liu Hu-lan and several other women sent the army food and water, and braved enemy gunfire to rescue the wounded. When ammunition ran short she called on the women to carry boxes of it to the front.





The enemy set up a strongpoint near Hu-lan's village. The Party branch decided that most of the village cadres should go to the base area while a few should stay behind to carry on the struggle. Hu-lan was told to go to the base area and she wanted to. But when she thought of the fierce struggle to be waged in her village, she asked to remain behind. The Party organization gave its approval.



The situation in the village became worse. It was constantly harassed by the invaders. Liu Hu-lan recruited members for an armed work team which persisted in armed struggle and defended the democratic power.



Landlord Shih Ting-huai became the puppet village head. He led an armed "home-going detachment" of landlords, out for revenge, to collect money and grain for the reactionary Chiang Kai-shek army, at the same time acting as Kuomintang spies. The landlord detachment under Shih Ting-huai arrested village cadres and killed their family members. Liu Hu-lan reported on the landlord's crimes to the county people's government. Landlord Shih was soon apprehended and executed on the demand of the masses.



Notice by the people's government of the landlord's execution posted near the enemy's strongpoint by Liu Hu-lan and work team members, and also appropriate slogans, raised the villagers' spirits and deflated the enemy's arrogance.





The enemy suddenly surrounded the village one morning and arrested some cadres among whom was Shih Wu-tse. Shih utterly betrayed the Party and sold out the comrades. Hearing of this, Liu Hu-lan met secretly with other cadres to discuss the measures to take.



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The situation became grave. The Party branch asked Hu-lan to go into the mountains — they would maintain contact with her. The next morning the villagers assembled at her home as she prepared to set out.



Just then came the order, shouted to the sound of a gong: "All men, women and children of the village must gather before the temple!" The enemy had surrounded the village.



Unable to get away now, Liu Hu-lan burned all Party documents as quickly as possible. Her mother urged her to take refuge in a neighbour's house, where there was a new baby.





Liu Hu-lan found other villagers already there. The gong sounded louder and louder. Thinking that it would never do to bring disaster to this family and the other villagers, she left the neighbour's house at once.



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Snow fell thickly, and a cold north wind pierced to the bone as the villagers were driven before the temple door. The enemy threatened the villagers at gunpoint to hand over Liu Hu-lan, but they refused.

→  
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Liu Hu-lan thought of her pledge to the Party and was afraid of nothing. She would never submit to the enemy. To safeguard the masses she strode forth out of the crowd and stood erect before her captors. The enemy tried bribery and torture to get her to confess, but she declared firmly: "Kill me if you want to. You'll never make me confess."

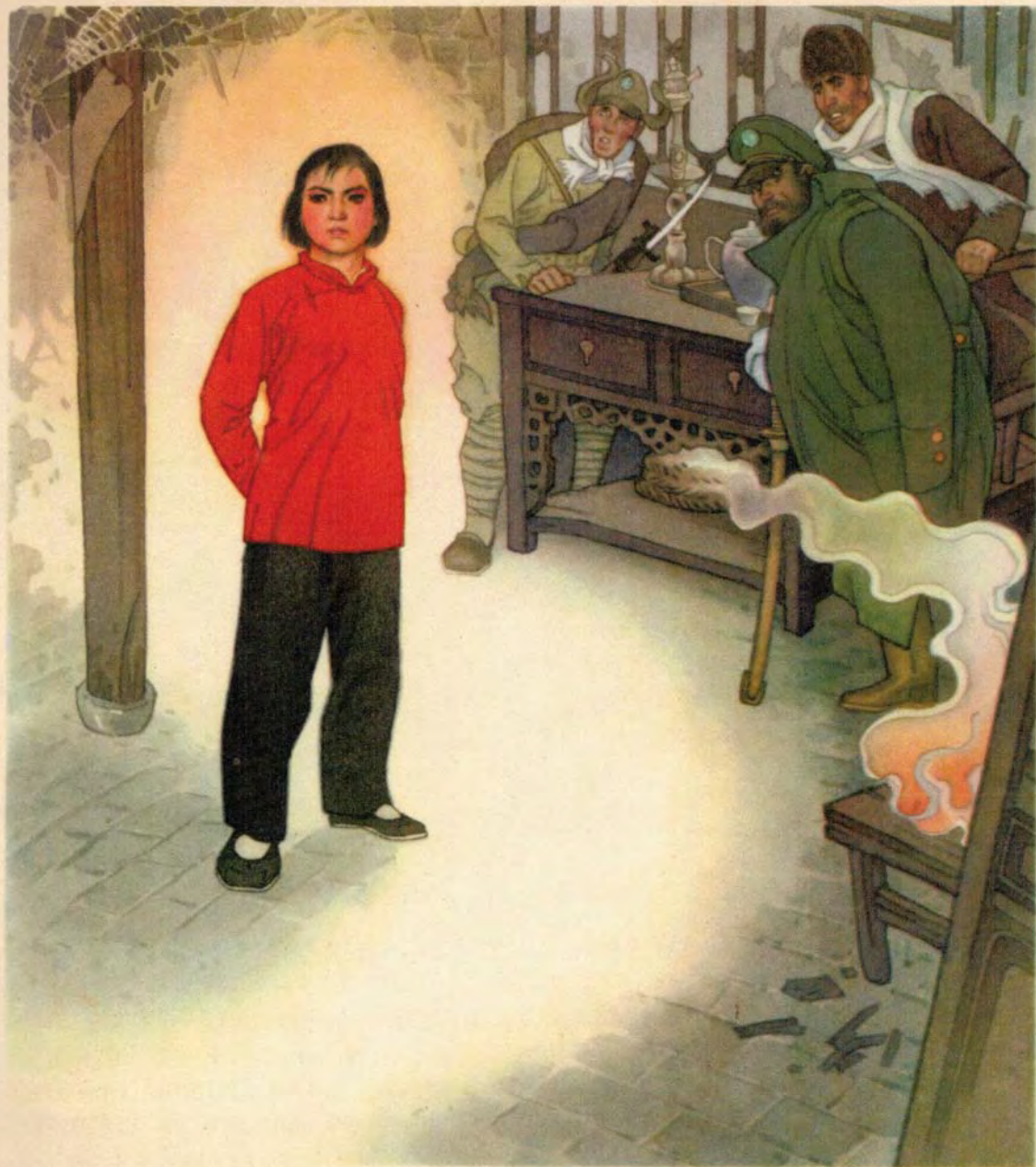


Hu-lan turned to her mother. She had no tears, only hatred for the enemy. "Don't cry, Mother," she said, "but struggle on till the red flag flies over the whole country!"





Liu Hu-lan stood defiant, fearless before the enemy. "Only sixteen, but what a tongue you've got!" yelled her interrogators. "Who else in the village are Communists? Speak out! We'll kill you if you don't! Aren't you afraid of death?" But Hu-lan answered firmly, "If I were, I wouldn't be a Communist!"



Liu Hu-lan was taken to the execution ground. She saw six other comrades already there. These heroes, too, preferred death to surrender. The enemy first beheaded the six one after the other with the chaff-cutter, till the ground flowed with the martyrs' blood. "Are you going to talk or not?" the enemy thundered at Hu-lan, who was burning with anger. "I'll never yield! You can never kill all the Communists. You can never put out the revolutionary sparks!" was *Liu Hu-lan's* reply.



The vicious enemy ordered the villagers to beat Liu Hu-lan, but this only made them more indignant and they refused. "Shoot them all!" came the next order from the exasperated enemy. At this point Hu-lan stepped forward. "No!" she demanded. "Kill me. You can't kill the villagers."



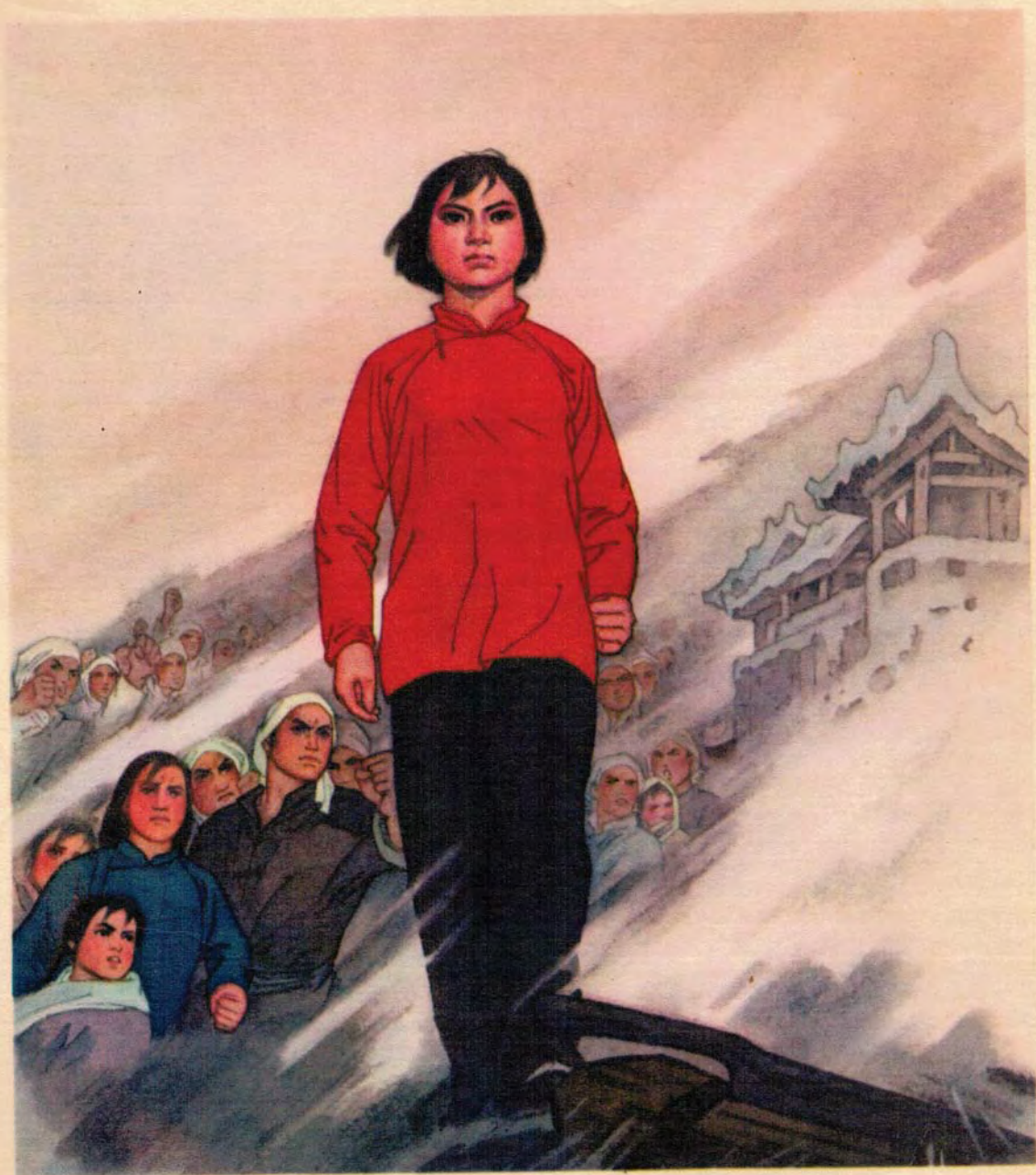
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Liu Hu-lan towered over the execution ground. Glaring at the enemy, she shouted: "Say how I am to die!" And Hu-lan smoothed her hair as she gazed upon the villagers for the last time. "Goodbye forever, dear villagers!" she said. "Carry on the struggle!"





Liu Hu-lan followed the other six martyrs unhesitatingly, marching up to the chaff-cutter and asking the villagers not to grieve. "The enemy won't last long," she told them. "Victory belongs to us. Long live the Chinese Communist Party! Long live Chairman Mao!"



Seventeen days after Liu Hu-lan's death the liberation army fought its way back to Wenshui County. The comrades went sadly to the seven martyrs' execution ground and wept as they picked up some of the earth stained with their blood. "Down with Chiang Kai-shek! Liberate the whole country! Avenge the martyrs!" they pledged.



The day dawned in 1949 when Liu Hu-lan's and the other martyrs' wish for the Chinese people's liberation was realized. The local Party branch admitted Liu Hu-lan posthumously into the Party soon after her death. Later, the Chinese people's great leader Chairman Mao honoured her memory with the inscription: **“A great life! A glorious death!”**

生的偉大  
死的榮光  
毛澤東題



The heroic image of Liu Hu-lan lives forever in the hearts of the Chinese people,  
her revolutionary spirit inspiring them to go ever forward.





## *The Story*

Liu Hu-lan was born in Yunchouhsi Village of Wenshui County in Shansi Province, China, and grew up in the stress of war years. With the Communist Party's leadership and educated by Mao Tsetung Thought, Liu Hu-lan developed from an ordinary country girl into a proletarian fighter. She was fearless in the face of the enemy and met death unflinchingly. She sacrificed her life for the Party and the people in 1947 at the age of sixteen, fully displaying the noble qualities of a Communist. Though her life was short, her revolutionary spirit is immortal. The Chinese people's great leader Chairman Mao honoured Liu Hu-lan with these words: **"A great life! A glorious death!"**

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