# 我来见证这本书——谈谈谭忠超教授的《布衣》

蒙木

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**My Testimony – about “*Walking in the Mud*” by Prof. Tan**

Meng Mu

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《布衣》这书，我读两遍，好多地方都不禁流许多泪。我想，作者写这本书也一定流了更多的泪。其中的故事对于作者来说太切身了；就我这些年阅读范围来说，本书也是我最为切身的一本，这不单单是因为其中的 乡音。作者谭兄生长在邳县北部邢楼镇，我在邳县南部土山镇，都家境窘迫，同在运河中学读高中，同住一个拥 挤不堪的宿舍，同吃一个虫子满钵的食堂；后来又同样在北京读书，他在清华，我在对门的北大，周末不时会到 他那里蹭点饭。也就是说，谭兄的母亲所要来的饭，不仅仅养活了两个大学生，还有一些是流入了我的胃。所以 我不能不感慨。给这本书写序，只要谭兄开口，我实在义不容辞，尽管自己一介布衣，也没大名气，不仅仅是这 份情谊，最为关键的：我是本书的一个绝对见证。

I have read this book twice already, often with tears in my eyes. I believe that the author, brother Tan, must have shred even more tears when he was writing it. I can relate with the stories to my personal life not solely because of the hometown dialects spoken by the characters in the stories. The author is my friend who grew up in northern part of Pei County in Jiangsu Province, China, while I grew up in the southern part of the county. We both were born to extremely under privileged rural families. However, we went to the same prestigious high school together, Yun-he High School where we lived in the same over crowded dormitory. We dined in the same cafeteria with all kinds of bugs. Later on, we both went to colleges in Beijing. He studied at Tsinghua University, and I was at the next door, Peking University. In those days, I often visited him at Tsinghua University, and ate with him as a “sponger”. That means, the food which his mother had begged fed not only her two college sons, and me as well. Therefore, I cannot help lamenting. When brother Tan invited me to write this preface, I consider it my obligation, although I am a common person without fame. It is just our deep friendship; most importantly, I am a witness of the facts in the books.

这本书的开篇让我吃惊，它用一个姓一个村庄和中国乃至世界的历史相对接，大开大阖，理工科出身的 谭兄居然在文史上如此着意，尽管其中个别文史细节和方言分析待于进一步细考，但这个气魄之大着实令人佩服。

I was surprised at the beginning of the book, which connects a family name and a tiny village to the history of China, maybe to history of the world too. Despite of some details that may deserve more research, I was greatly impressed with the author’s verve, not to mention that he was trained in engineering without education background in literature and social science.

徐州—邳县，历来是兵家必争之地，《三国演义》的“屯土山关公约三事”“下邳城曹操鏖兵 白门楼吕 布殒命”；《岳飞传》的“东路军韩世忠受挫淮阳军”等故事脍炙人口；台儿庄战役之禹王山战斗和淮海战役之 碾庄战斗的遗迹至今让人吊怀。本书用两三个村庄折射着辛亥革命、军阀混战、全民族抗日、解放战争的变迁。这些战争离本书故事的发生地有多近，大家看看台儿庄战役和淮海战役作战地图就知道了。谭兄是通过他的爷爷 辈的故事来反映这些大事件背后的人物命运的。

Pei County has always been the battleground in history of China with countless popular stories and heroes, such as General Guan Yu and Governor Lv Bu in Three Kingdoms, and General Han Shi-Zhong in Biography of General Yue Fei. Most recently, both the King Yu Mountain Battle in the Campaign of Taerzhuang against the Japanese invaders in 1938 and the Nian’ Village Battle during the Chinese Civil War in 1949 took place exactly in Pei County. Through the stories of three villages nearby, the author introduced the readers, to Xinhai Revolution, Warlord Era, Nationwide Anti-Japanese Invasion Wars, and the latest Chinese Civil War, from another perspective. He reflected on how the fates of common people were affected by these national events from the narrations of his grandparents.

接着就到了从无到有的新中国新社会了。土改、社会主义改造、文革过程，这些都是谭兄的父母辈亲身 经历的了，这也是这本书最重要的章节，我认为是 LIVE 版的《暴风骤雨》（周立波名著）。“礼失而求诸野”，这部分是我们中国正史中所或缺，或者说所选择性遗忘的。我觉得，凡要了解真的中国农村和中国乡绅文化的，就一定要读读这本书。

Then it came with the establishment of the new China and the new society. The experience of Brother Tan’s parents during Land Reform, the Socialist Transformation, and the Cultural Revolution periods, form the main part of the book. The story is a live version of Hurricane, the masterpiece of Zhou Li-bo. These portions of history have been missing in the public Chinese record, maybe they were selectively forgotten for some reasons. I believe that anyone who wants to learn about the true rural China and the Chinese squire culture should read this book.

传统的中国农村，已经死了。不单单是土壤沙化和滥用农药的污染，也不单单是精壮劳力全部涌入城市后留守农村者非老即幼的荒凉，的的确确，人心先散了。人心，在《尚书》和《孟子》里属于最大的政治力量。这中国农村究竟怎么死的呢？费孝通《乡土中国》和张仲礼《中国绅士》所描述的中国农村究竟是怎样连根拔起的？我想这本书给了一个很大的根由。正是先有了农村基层管理模式的革命，才有改革开放后农村价值取向的不可逆转的改变。所以本书具有强大的细节的颠覆性，我希望中国大陆也有尽可能多的人来阅读这本书，稀释稀 释被中学历史教科书僵化了头脑。我渴望有比我更有能量的出版人来促成这本书在中国大陆的出版。我们需要正视新中国的历史。中国共产党将国民党驱赶出大陆，那是因为他成功地策动并执行了“从农村包围城市”的战略。历史昭示现实，我固执地把中国的未来寄托于广大农村。不能安顿农村的所有改革都将归于失败。

Traditional rural China has long been dead! The death was not a due to soil desertification, or the abusive pesticide pollution, or the exodus of young labors from rural areas to big cities, leaving behind the elderly and the minors, but the most important reason is that people have become cold hearted. The heart, in *The Book* and *Mencius*, belongs to the greatest power. How did the rural China die? How rural China, described in *Rural China* by Fei Xiao-tong and in *Chinese Gentlemen* by Zhang Zhong-li, was uprooted? I believe the answers can be found in this book. It was the revolution of rural management that led to the irreversible change in the values orientation of the villagers. Therefore, this book is subversive with great details, and I hope as many people as possible in mainland China will read this book to dilute the ossified knowledge that were taken from high school history lectures. In addition, I desire someone influential can successfully release this book in mainland China. We must face the true history of new China. The Communist Party succeeded in driving Kuomintang Party to Taiwan clearly demonstrated how important rural China was. I am convinced that rural China is the future of China, and that any reformation that cannot lead to a peaceful rural China will fail eventually.

中国农村问题，并不是和城市问题对立的概念，而是整个中国问题的症候。所以，那些脱离了大地的城市人一定要来关心关心农村问题，他们的平等、自由、尊严等诉求能否真的实现，这就看中国农村问题能否解决。我不希望城市人是一个自私的集合。该打住了，回到谭兄这本书，我建议北京、上海的公共知识分子们来读 读吧。这里面的一切悲喜剧，离我们很近很近。

Rural China is not a concept that is the opposite of urban China. Rural problems are the symptom of the entire China. Therefore, I urge those urban citizens who have been off the earth to spend some time caring about rural China. Ability to solve the problems of rural China determines whether the rural Chinese can be treated with equality, freedom and dignity. I do not wish to see urban residents as a selfish cluster. I must stop here and let the book speaks. I highly recommend to the intellectuals in Beijing and Shanghai. Read this book, as all the laughter and tears of the book are closely related to us!

我不该喧宾夺主，让序言这个附件淹没了著作主体，最后仅仅再强调一件事：用邳县方言写作的作品，我没有看过第二个；尽管笔者幼年听邳州大鼓、扬琴和各种民间曲艺，受邳县方言的滋润实在太多。因为随着农村的沦陷，普通话的推广，中国各地方言也濒危了。这本书对于我们了解和保存中国方言也是有益的尝试。

Well, I am not supposed to be the center of attention by allowing this preface to replace the main body of the book, but I want to emphasize one more thing, that is, I have never seen a book written in Pei dialects, although I grew up with local folk performing arts. With the decline of rural China and the promotion of official mandarin, all dialects have been endangered. This book also sets a good example of attempting to understand and to protect all Chinese dialects.