

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD CHILDREN
OF CADRES
TAKE ON AN AFFECTATION AS CHILDREN OF
REVOLUTIONARY HEROES

June 19, 1949

My Dear Nephew Kaiti,

I have just received your letter of June 10.

It is 18 years since I last saw you. From your letter I am very pleased to see that you can already write quite lucidly. Speaking of personal matters, neither your father³⁷⁹ nor I had the time to tend to the schooling or livelihood of our children—we have failed in our responsibilities as fathers and elder brothers. We reckoned the cost at the time. If we took charge only of the youngsters in our own families, we would have been able to contribute little effort to reforming the whole society. So we decided to forsake our families and live an itinerant life. Now our aim of liberating the entire nation will soon be achieved, but this is still only the first step in the reconstruction of society; the standard of living of the common people throughout the country is still very low. Our commitment is not only to overthrow the reactionary forces, but to further improve the people's living conditions, so a long and difficult job is still ahead of us. The next stage of this work will require the concerted efforts of the whole nation.

I shall never forget your grandfather and grandmother; they made the deepest impression on me. After the failure of the 1927 revolution, your father, Comrade Wu Zhixi³⁸⁰ and I were conducting the peasant movement in Xiaozheng, and we stayed in your home. Following the defeat of that movement,³⁸¹ your whole family escaped to Shanghai, where your grandfather continued to practise medicine to support his numerous dependents, and we continued to have our meals in your home. Your grandfather was a man of great integrity. He deeply believed in the victory of the revolution, and

Letter to Comrade Lu Kaiti.

in the midst of adversity he never expressed the slightest complaint or regret; he was truly exceptional.

It is my responsibility as an uncle to counsel you on a certain matter, and you may copy this part of the letter for Niyun³⁸² and ask him to heed its message as well. You and Niyun should under no circumstances take on an affectation as children of revolutionary heroes. This kind of behaviour in front of your fellow countrymen or doing anything improper or illegal is absolutely impermissible. You must remember that communists have only the same rights as common people do under the laws of the state, and, moreover, they should be exemplary in observing these laws. The activities of members of a revolutionary party should have the sole purpose of serving the people; there must be no thoughts of reward. Whoever considers rewards does not qualify as a communist. Your father and I are not heroes, and you are not children of heroes. You must very firmly keep this in mind. You must remember that the true heroes are the common people throughout the country, and it was only because they opposed the reactionaries and supported the liberation army that the People's Liberation Army was able to liberate all of China. You must abide by the law and behave yourselves. Not the slightest illegal behaviour can be permitted. To write this in my first letter may seem discourteous, but I feel deeply that it is my duty to admonish you.

I will probably be making a trip south, but the date is not yet fixed. I do not know if your father will be able to take time off from his work, but I will set a date if possible so that we can get together.

If Zhangliantang³⁸³ and Xiaozheng are still without a telegraph office, please provide me with an address. That way, if anything urgent comes up, I will be able to telegraph you, as it takes two weeks to get an answer to a letter. Your last letter of June 10 arrived on June 17.

Please relay my respects to your grandmother and my regards to your mother. With best wishes for yourself!