

To: Ing Hay, John Day
 From: His Father, Hsia-pin-lin
 Tai-shan District
 Kwangtung, China
 Date: May 28, 1903

Take notice, My Son,

You have been away for more than a decade. Men go abroad in order to earn money to support their families, but you have not sent us money or letters since then. Everyone at home is anxious and worried, even in their dreams. I am disturbed and confused. Are you intending to let us starve to death? If you had sent no money back because of your bad business, then I would not blame you. But I have been told that your business is booming, and you have made much money. Why don't you send some back? Even if you don't think of your mother and me, you should think of your wife and son. But you think only of yourself and enjoy your life alone without considering us. This is not fitting for a man of high character.

I remember what you had said when we were both in the Golden Mountains. You said, "Let the old go back home and rest. Let the young seek fortune abroad." You were exactly right when you made that remark. I have been back, and you have sent no money. The prices are skyrocketing here, everything is expensive. I don't have any income since I am unemployed. The small amount of money which I had brought back from the Golden Mountains is gone. I am planning to borrow but there is no door to knock on. We are in a desperate situation. We cannot get along any longer now. My grandson - your son - is growing

up and needs schooling. The tuition fee is much more than living expenses. Your mother is approaching the age of sixty.^o Her birthday is in August. Of course, you know the date. Are you going to express what a son should for his mother on that day?

Send some money immediately to meet the urgent need at home. Come back whenever you can get a little fortune so that it would bring about our family's reunion.

Your father,
Ing Du-hsioh

^oA person's birthday of sixty is a very important one. His friends and relatives will usually arrange an elaborate ceremony for him.