

To: Yu-hsiao, via Quong Yuan Lung & Company, John Day

From: His father, China

Date: February 19, 1918

*One of the nine  
letters from his father*

My Son:

Your wife died after being sick for a long time since last year. We have borrowed over one hundred dollars for her medical care. Our distress became more bitter when we found that we could not borrow any money for her funeral.

Later, we received six hundred dollars from you. It seemed quite a lot, but only left a few for us after paying the debts.

Your wife is gone, no one can take care of the household. Both your mother and I are too old. Therefore, the relatives all advised me to arrange the marriage for Fu-hsiang, so he will be in charge of the incense and lamp [burning before the tablets of the ancestors], as well as the domestic work. As a result, we borrowed a sum of over eight hundred dollars for the expense of his marriage.

Your brother's son, Fu-jin, is eighteen years old. I would also like to see him get married, but it is completely beyond our power. The other thing maybe good for him to do is to go to your place. Again, the problem is how to get the money to pay passage fares. We are really in hell. If you have an idea, write to me quickly.

[The rest of the letters from his father are almost similar to this one.]