

Until next time, goodbye, Hong Kong!

Translated by Sin King Kui

Goodbye, Hong Kong!

Every time my plane departed Hong Kong from Kai Tak Airport, I couldn't help looking out of the window again and again at the retreating landscape of the city, my heart being gripped by a strong feeling of reluctance to leave. Ah, how I love Hong Kong. Every time I left her I felt this longing to see her again soon.

Hong Kong, known to some as "the pearl of the Orient", always sparkles with charm and glamour. I first visited the city in the summer of 1982. That year my wife, Huifang, and I were spending a holiday in Japan and Hong Kong. Apart from seeing friends and touring scenic spots, much of my time was spent accompanying her to the shops. She loaded me with shopping bags of all sizes without giving me a moment to relax. To her, shopping was great fun, but to me it was pure torture. Things in Japan may be exquisite and delicate, but also not cheap. That was why she always would have second thoughts when she was about to buy something. Hong Kong is internationally reputed to be a Shopper's Paradise, where you can find anything you want to buy, and with a great variety of choice. What is more, prices are reasonable, much cheaper than in Tokyo and Taipei. So as soon as she arrived in Hong Kong, she went all out in a busy buying spree, like a stranded fish desperate to return to the water! As for myself, I could but sigh with admiration at the sight of the enchanting, glittering city by night, and at the sight of the beautiful scenery surrounding the Chinese University. And as my plane was leaving Hong Kong from Kai Tak Airport, I could

only catch through the window a few desperate last glimpses of the retreating landscape of the city and say, "Goodbye, Hong Kong!"

It was several years later when I saw Hong Kong again. In the autumn of 1985 I was on sabbatical leave for one year from the National University of Taiwan, with a grant from the "rich but not snobbish" (Fulbright)¹ Academic Exchange Foundation to visit American universities such as Harvard and UC Berkeley. The night before my departure a friend from Hong Kong dropped by. He tried to talk me into taking up a permanent teaching post at the Chinese University. I told him I would think about it and discuss it with my family before making up my mind. In fact, the Chinese University had a far more beautiful campus and offered a far more attractive salary than any university in Taiwan could offer at the time. Getting a teaching job at the Chinese University was something many wouldn't have dared to hope for even in their wildest dreams – and now I had been offered one! So in late August the following year, my wife and I went to Hong Kong for the second time. "Nice to see you again, Hong Kong!"

The Chinese University is located in Shatin, New Territories. With a campus nestled among the hills and overlooking the sea, it offers a most pleasant and scenic view. The Department of Chinese was in Fung King Hey Building. My office was in Room 501. From the window you can see the verdant hills hanging like an emerald green curtain. Further down you can see the far end of the bay. At times when I got tired from reading

(附原作)



再見香港



吳宏一

再見，香港。

每一次在啟德機場搭機離開香港的時候，我都不禁要頻頻憑窗俯瞰那漸行漸遠的港九景物，心中充滿了依依之情。真的，我是多麼喜歡香港啊！每一次離開時，我都希望不久的將來，能夠再見香港。

香港，有人說它是「東方之珠」，閃耀著迷人的光彩。一九八二年的夏天，我第一次到了香港，那時候，與內人慧芳偕遊日本、香港，沿途除了會見朋友、遊山玩水之外，大部分的時間，都是陪著內人購物，大包小包，不曾歇過。對內人而言，她是樂在其中；對我來說，則是苦不堪言。日本的物品，精巧細緻，可是價錢卻不便宜，所以內人在購買時，還難免有所猶豫；香港是舉世公認的購物天堂，東西應有盡有，樣式繁多，價錢卻又合理，說句實話，比起東京和台北來，真是低得可以！所以內人到了香港，如魚得水，大買特買，忙得不亦樂乎！我只有對著璀璨迷人的夜景興嘆，對著中文大學的山海興嘆；我只有在啟德機場搭機離開的時候，頻頻憑窗俯瞰那漸行漸遠的港九景物，說：「再見，香港。」

再見香港的時候，已經隔了好幾年。一九八五年的秋季，我因台大休假一年，同時申請到美國富而不賴的(FULBRIGHT)學術交流基金會的獎助，到美國哈佛大學、加州大學柏克萊分校等地訪問。出發前夕，有香港友人來，勸我轉往香港中文大學長期任教。我表示可以考慮，但要跟家人商量後，才能決定。事實上，當時香港中文大學的環境、待遇，都比台灣的大學優厚許多，能

去任教，相信是許多人夢寐以求之事，更何況是對方自行來延攬呢！因此，第二年的八月下旬，我和內人又到了香港。再見香港。

香港中文大學在新界沙田，校園依山面海，景色十分宜人。中文系在馮景禧樓，我的辦公室在五零一室。青山當窗，一簾蒼翠，遠處是海灣一角。讀書累了，偶一抬頭，但見山色撲窗而來，青山故多態，轉折為君容，倦意為之消解不少。學校配給我住的宿舍第十苑，就在吐露港邊。坪數極大，據說是一般香港人住家的三倍。一面是山壁和亭台，一面則全是海。海氣山光，相映生輝，不分朝暮，排闥而入。坐在客廳裏，躺在臥房裏，都一樣可以看到落地玻璃窗外不遠處的海，和海上幾座嫵媚的小山。山在虛無縹緲間，有時候在晴空下眉眼畢現，有時候在烟霧裏和海一起消失。真是朝夕變化，氣象萬千。

這樣的環境，加上舉世聞名的高薪，套句遼耀東兄的話，可以說是教書匠的人間天堂了。但萬萬沒有想到，我的太太卻不能適應。語言的隔閡，兒女的教育，岳母的奉養，種種問題一時間難以解決，所以，這個以前的購物天堂，頓時失去了對內人的吸引力。她常常吵著要回台北，事實上，那整整的一年裏，她在台北的時間，遠比香港多。就因為這樣，雖然我喜歡香港，喜歡香港中文大學，喜歡學校裏的同事和同學，我在任教一年後，不得不向香港說聲再見。

在啟德機場搭機離開香港的時候，心中著實充滿了依依不捨之情。當飛機起飛，越來越高，憑

and lifted my eyes, I could see the hills displaying their natural beauty right through the window. As a Chinese poet puts it, “The green hills are always there to pose for you, endeavouring to look their best just to win your heart”.² At their sight I felt much refreshed.

The apartment allocated to me by the university borders on Tolo Harbour. It is extremely spacious, in fact, from what I was told, three times as large as a flat occupied by the average family in Hong Kong. From one side of the apartment you can see the hillsides and pavilions, and from the other, a panoramic view of the sea. The luster of the hills and the haze of the sea interpenetrate in a picturesque contrast, infiltrating the apartment day in and day out. Whether sitting in the living room or lying down in the bedroom, through the French window you can always see the sea nearby and off in the distance a few lovely hills on the small islands. The hills are ever so elusive. Sometimes they appear right before your eyes under a clear blue sky; sometimes they seem to disappear altogether with the sea in a shroud of fog. Constantly changing from morning till night, they present you with a majestic view of natural wonder.

With such a beautiful campus, together with a handsome salary envied all over the world, the Chinese University is indeed, as my friend Lu Yaodong once said, a teacher’s paradise on earth. Yet it was totally unexpected that my wife couldn’t make the adjustment. Having to overcome the language barrier, make arrangements for our children’s education, and look after my mother-in-law in Taiwan was simply too much for her to cope with all at once. What had been a Shopper’s Paradise soon lost all its attraction for her. She kept pressing me to go back to Taipei. In fact, that year she spent much more time there than in Hong Kong. So even though I loved Hong Kong, even though I liked the Chinese University as well as the

colleagues and students, and even though I taught there only for one year, I couldn’t but say goodbye to Hong Kong.

With my plane about to take off from Hong Kong’s Kai Tak Airport, I was suddenly gripped by such a strong feeling of reluctance to leave. Then as the plane took off, climbing higher and higher, I looked out of the window at the landscape as it gradually became more distant and more obscure. Yet still I kept looking back. Oh, how I love Hong Kong! How I longed to see her again soon.

My hope did come true. Since 1987 I have been visiting Hong Kong at least twice a year. As always, Hong Kong sparkles with charm and glamour. Over the past few years some of my friends have left Hong Kong. Some people say Hong Kong is going to the dogs. But to me Hong Kong will always be the same, always a familiar spot on the atlas. I will always remember the many occasions when I strolled in the hills and along the seaside at the Chinese University, when I admired the street scenes from Mongkok to Tsimshatsui, when I took the ferry or the Mass Transit Railway to cross the Victoria Harbour, when I shopped for daily necessities at the New City Plaza in Shatin, when I browsed among books in Joint Publishing Company, Chunghwa and New Asia,³ when I had a hearty chat over tea with my friends.

Ah, I really hope Hong Kong will always sparkle with charm and glamour.

And until next time, goodbye, Hong Kong.

Notes:

1. “Fulbright” sounds like “rich but not snobbish” in Chinese.
2. The two lines are from a poem by Su Shi (a famous poet in the Dynasty of Northern Song) which describe the beauty of Wu Mountain.
3. These are well-known bookstores in Hong Kong.



【楊志強先生攝影】

窗俯眺那港九景物，越來越遠，越遠越小，禁不住在逐漸模糊的景色裏，頻頻回首。我是多麼喜歡香港啊！我希望不久的將來，又能再見香港。

果然，一九八七年以後，我每年總是至少有兩次會到香港來。香港，仍然散發著它璀璨迷人的光彩。雖然這幾年間，有些朋友也離開了，甚至有人說，再過幾年，香港會趨於沒落。可是，香港仍然會是香港，會是一本熟悉的地圖。我會永遠

記得，那無數次的，中大山中或海邊的散步，從旺角到尖沙咀的街景，坐渡輪或地鐵經過維多利亞海峽，從上環搭電車到銅鑼灣，在沙田新城市廣場購買生活用品，在三聯、中華、新亞等幾家書店閒逛，和朋友飲茶聊天，種種種種的情景。

啊，我多麼希望香港永遠璀璨迷人。

再見香港。