

六三水災救美記

‘Damsels-in-Distress’: The Flood on 3 June 1984

那一年的端午節前夕（6月3日），臺北木柵地區突然下起傾盆大雨，結果位於景美溪畔低窪地區的政治大學，竟因一雨成災，洪水很快淹到一樓高。許多研究生因為時值六月畢業季，論文收拾不及，全部泡在水裡。甚至有一位趕論文至深夜的碩士生，必須破窗而出逃離一樓宿舍，當時大水兇猛侵襲的慘狀，可見一斑。

On the eve of the Dragon Boat Festival, 3 June 1984, there was a sudden downpour in Muzha, Taipei. Consequently, the water level rose drastically to one floor high on the campus of National Cheng-Chi University on the banks of Jingmei River. Many postgraduate students, working hard before the June graduation, were not able to rescue their dissertations from the rising water. There was even one of them who returned late to the dorm because he worked till midnight elsewhere. The fact that he needed to break a window and fled from his ground-floor room shows how strong the flood came to the area.

到了第二天早上，大水仍有一人高，導致整個學校仍泡在水裡！話說住在學校附近高地的碩士生少校，雖然免於水患之苦，一早起來趕忙換上紅色小短褲，替房東清掃淹水的一樓。其間突然閃過一個念頭：自己心中心儀的小芳，不知是否還待在宿舍裡？宿舍電話不通，趕忙打了一通電話到她家，發現對方仍睡眼惺忪地回答：「因為端午節回家……」少校趕忙說：「學校這裡剛淹大水，你在家就暫時不要來學校了！」

On the next morning, the water level was still about one's height. The whole campus was under water! At that time, there was a military major studying for a postgraduate degree who lived in an area close to the campus but relatively higher. Although he avoided the flood, he still changed into a red pair of shorts early in the morning and went to help his landlord clear and clean the flooded ground floor. While working, he had a flash of thought: he wondered whether Hsiao-Fang, the girl he always fancied, was still in the dorm. The phone in the dorm didn't work so he called her house instead. He heard her sleepy voice saying that she went back home for the Festival. He quickly told her: 'There has been a flood on campus so don't come back to the university anytime soon.'

少校放下電話後，再度投入救災工作。不久想到：「平常自己在女生宿舍樓下站崗等小芳，很多路過的女同學看我可憐，還會送我冰棒、水果的，甚至在我久候等不到人的時候，還會過來陪我聊天。如果因為小芳不在宿舍，我就不理那群被大水困在宿舍的女同學們，那我未免太現實了吧！」念頭一轉，立即上樓拿錢，趕往地勢較高的指南宮樓梯山腳下的雜貨店，買了許多泡麵、餅乾、礦泉水等物品。

After finishing the call, he went back to the cleaning, but it soon occurred to him: 'Many times when I waited outside the girls' dormitory for Hsiao-Fang, there were sympathetic girls who gave me ice-pops and fruit. Sometimes when I waited there for a long time, they even came to talk to me. I would be ungracious if I simply left them there stuck in the dorm because Hsiao-Fang is not there!' After this thought, he immediately went upstairs for some money, rushed to the grocery store at the foot of the stairs to Chih Nan Temple, which is higher in ground, and bought packets of instant noodles, biscuits, and bottles of mineral water.

老闆娘看他為了協助山下「災民」而蒐購這些賑災物品，連忙建議加購一個大澡盆，少校將物品裝在澡盆中，小心翼翼移至水中，邊走邊游地推著滿載食品的澡盆，朝女生宿舍游了過去！途中不時與水蛇等不速之客相遇，又要顧及澡盆的安危，過程之驚險，難以言喻！經過千辛萬苦，總算游到女生宿舍門口，抬頭看到幾十對眼睛聚焦在自己身上，絕對不能有任何意外發生！「老闆，你那些食物是要送給誰的？」有女生按捺不住，大聲詢問。「我不是老闆，我是夥計，這些食物是來送給需要的人的……」

Seeing him buying all these things for the people hit by the flood, the shopkeeper suggested that he buy a big bathing tub. He put the relief inside and carefully moved himself into the water, pushing the filled bathing tub while half walking and half swimming towards the girls' dormitory. While worrying about the safety of what he carried, he ran into, rather unexpectedly and for quite a few times, things like water-snake on his way – the difficulty of the journey was just beyond words. After all these, he finally got to the front door of the girls' dormitory. Noticing that there were dozens of pairs of eyes on him from upstairs, he told himself that there would better not be any accident! 'Sir! The food is for whom?' some girls couldn't hold back and asked loudly. 'I am not a Sir, I am just a clerk, these are for those who need them...'

少校苦中作樂，不忘幽對方一默。結果只聽到樓上觀看的女生們，有穿睡衣的、有打赤腳的，匆忙趕下樓來，迎接好不容易盼到的救災物品。少校在積水未退的

宿舍階梯上，畢恭畢敬地把整整一盆的食物送上，沒想到一下子就被一掃而光，後面來的女同學們失望地詢問：「老闆你還有剩的嗎？」

Humoring the girls, the major tried to play down the hardship. Yet all the girls, after hearing him, just stormed downstairs grabbing the long-awaited necessities, some in pajamas, some barefoot. On the half-flooded stairs, the major chivalrously handed them the whole tub of food. What he had not expected was that all was gone rather quickly. There were some girls who came slightly late asking sadly: 'Is there anything left?'

經不起這些女孩失望的表情，少校竟然笑著說：「沒問題，你們再等一下，我再給你們送過來！」於是又推著臉盆，冒著生命危險，不顧途中可能會又遇到一些水蛇出沒，想想背後還有很多雙眼睛在盯著他，期盼他帶回食物，無論如何一定要「使命必達」！所以第二度回到雜貨店，把剩餘的食物一掃而光，重新小心翼翼地游回女生宿舍，讓守在宿舍門口、面容憂愁的女同學們，破涕為笑！只是當時竟無人想起要「付錢」這回事！

He couldn't bear their looks of disappointment. The major instead smiled: 'No problem. Please wait here for a bit. I will get some more.' He then risked his life again, pushing the tub ahead in water without thinking whether he would meet any more water-snakes. He just thought that there were so many eyes on him, so much expectation for more food – he had to complete his mission anyhow. When he arrived at the grocery store for the second time, he took all the remaining food and carefully swam back to the dormitory. At the front door, he successfully restored the smiles on all those worried girls' faces. But it seemed that no one was thinking at all about paying him.

事後，舍監阿姨稱讚他十分慷慨與熱心，因為在少校送完食物後，竟然有人真是沒良心，趁機會發災難財，將食物提高價錢賣給這些受困的學生！少校想著：原本是想來問問看有沒有同學要付給他當時食品的工本費，沒想到聽到這段話後，就不敢再吭聲！

Afterwards, the dormitory warden praised his generosity and earnestness, especially because, after the major twice delivered the relief, there were others – rather unethically – used the opportunity to earn money by selling over-priced food to students stuck there. The major originally thought that he would ask around to see whether there are any students willing to pay him for the money of the food. But after hearing the praise, he decided to stay quiet.

只是這件「淹水運送食物」的創舉，一下子造成轟動，後果一發不可收拾。幾天後少校心儀的小芳回到宿舍，許多收到食物的女同學們爭相敘述淹水那天，那個正在追求你的男生，如何兩度冒著大水，打著赤膊、穿著紅色短褲運送食物的精采片段……。有人甚至問道：「這樣的一個男生，你到底要不要接受？你如果再躲著不理他，後面好多人排隊，想找他當男朋友呢！」小芳聽到宿舍室友們七嘴八舌地描述經過，覺得十分玩味：怎麼會有人在大水未退時，冒險運送食物給宿舍同學們，難道這就是所謂的「愛屋及烏」嗎？

However, this heroic delivery of flood relief soon caused a sensation and became well-known and widely talked about among students, and no one foresaw what entailed. Several days later, Hsiao-Fang, the girl the major fancied, came back to the dorm. She was repeatedly told by those who had got food on the day the thrilling stories about how that guy who always asked you out came – shirtless and only in his red shorts – to the dorm twice. Some even asked: ‘Why on earth did you not go out with him? If you keep avoiding him, there are several of us willing to have him as boyfriend!’ Hearing all these talks, Hsiao-Fang was intrigued: why did a person risk his life to send relief to her classmates stuck in the dorm when the water level was still high? Was it simply an extension of his love?

少校這段無心插柳的「壯舉」，在室友們的推波助瀾下，感動了小芳，成就了日後「六三水災·英雄救美」的一段佳話。

Because of all these talks surrounding her, this unplanned heroic of the major moved Hsiao-Fang. ‘Damsels-in-distress’ in the flood on 3 June 1984 thus had a happy ending and became a much loved story.

討論題綱

Questions for discussion

1. 追求心儀的對象，應該用哪些方法，才能引起注意，甚至博得歡心呢？

What to do to catch the attention of someone you fancy and even win his or her heart?

2. 你同意文中的少校淹水送食的做法嗎？為什麼？

Do you approve of what the major has done by delivering flood relief? Why or why

not?

3. 文中的少校終於博取美人芳心，請歸納有哪些因素？

What are the factors behind Hsiao-Fang's 'yes' to the major in the end?

4. 小芳最後願意接受少校，有無受到團體壓力的影響？還是自己做選擇？

Do you think that Hsiao-Fang was under peer pressure in her decision Or was it entirely her choice?

5. 如果你是小芳，你會怎麼做？

What would you do if you were Hsiao-Fang?

6. 古人說：「精誠所至，金石為開」，你同意這句話嗎？為什麼？

There was an old saying that 'faith will move mountains to open.' Do you agree with that? Why?