

This essay contains errors in nouns and pronouns, sentence structure, and verbs.

My Hopes for China

Leo Wong (Wong Kok Fai)

The book The Light in the Forest, by Conrad Richter, told me a lot that I hadn't known about the lives of the indigenous people of North America. It also reminded me of my native China, the way it used to be, and the way I perceive it now.

I used to live in a little village surrounded by mountain. Life was simple. The people there were mostly farmers and their relationships with each other were good. There were no crime and no theft. People's door always open. At night, people liked to gather together in the square to smoke, talk, and drink.

On summer nights, the other child and I used to like to catch lightening bugs. Also known as a firefly, the lightening bug is beautiful because its tail produces a soft glow. It fly freely around the mountains. The villagers say that lightening bugs are the souls of people who have died, and I remember they would tell our not to catch it because we might be catching our relatives!

The villagers have many local and long-held beliefs. They believe that when a person becomes ill, he shouldn't see a doctor but should take a red candle and some incense to the temple, where he will pray to God. When I was living there, this is what they would do. They brought some of the powder from the

burned incense back home from the temple, dissolve it in some water, and drink it. The villagers said their illnesses disappeared after they would do this.

When I was living in this village, I never heard people say that the government was no good. Although my village had not electricity, but much graffiti was written on walls, saying that our leader was a great and gentle man.

Now I know differently. Now I know that my country have many problem. Now I know that when I lived there, the government controlled people and their lives so much that they were afraid of the government and afraid to speak out. China is poor. Many of their long-held beliefs are beautiful, but many keep people's lives from improving.

The light of The Light in the Forest symbolizes the light of awareness. Now I have many hopes for China. I hope my native country will maintain its beauty. At the same time, I hope it becomes free and open to the modern world.

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