

Sun Yat-sen's Address at the University of Hong Kong "Why I Became a Revolutionist?"

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Speeches of Welcome

In welcoming the visitor, Mr Edward Ho Tung (Students' Union President) said Dr Sun's name was almost synonymous with that of the China, and his experiences, if written in book form, would make one of the most fascinating romances ever written. -(Applause.) If a love of liberty was a test of greatness, if a love of one's country was a test of greatness, then Dr Sun would be associated with the name of greatness itself. -(Loud applause.)Dr Sun was a great Chinese, a true gentleman and a large-hearted patriot. -(Applause.)

Dr Sun Yat-sen's Address

Dr Sun Yat-sen, who received another ovation on rising to speak, began by saying that he felt as though he had returned home, because Hong Kong and its University were his intellectual birthplace. He had not prepared a speech but thought he would like to answer certain questions which had been put to him many times and which, no doubt, many present would also like to put to him. He had never before been able to answer it properly, but he felt to-day that he was in a position to answer. The question was "Where and how did I get my revolutionary and modern ideas?" The answer was, "I got my idea in this very place; in the Colony of Hong Kong." - (Laughter and applause.) "I am going to tell you," continued Dr Sun, "how I got these ideas. More than thirty years ago I was studying in Hong Kong and spent a great deal of spare time in walking the streets of the Colony. Hong Kong impressed me a great deal, because there was orderly calm and because there was artistic work being done without interruption. I went to my home in Heungshan twice a year and immediately noticed the great difference. There was disorder instead of order, insecurity instead of security.

His Own Protector

When I arrived home I had to be my own policeman and my own protector.

The first matter for my care was to see my rifle was in order and to make sure plenty of ammunition was still left. I had to prepare for action for the night. Each time it was like this, year after year. I compared Heungshan with Hong Kong and, although they are only 50 miles apart, the difference of the Governments impressed me very much. Afterwards, I saw the outside world and I began to wonder how, it was that foreigners, that Englishmen could do such things as they had done, for example, with the barren rock of Hong Kong, within 70 or 80 years, while China, in 4,000 years, had no places like Hong Kong."

Interesting Autobiographical Details

After he had studied all this, Dr Sun continued, he went home to persuade the village elders to do the same thing, on a small scale, - at least to clear the streets and make a road to connect with the next village. The elders approved but said, he have not got the money." He replied, "Labour can we had. We young men can start the work." During his stay at home he applied himself to sweep the street and clean the road. (Applause.) And many young men followed him. Immediately they began work outside the village, there was trouble and at last he had to give up his idea of getting Hong Kong on a small scale. - (Laughter.)

Later, he approached the magistrate of the district, who was very sympathetic and promised to help during the next vacation. But when that next vacation came round he found that there was a new magistrate - a man who had paid \$50,000 for the post and so the previous holder had been removed.

Studying the Principles of Government

Such cases, one after another, impressed him and he returned to Hong Kong and began to study the government. He found that among the government officials corruption was the exception and purity the rule. - (Applause.) - It was quite the contrary in China, where corruption among officials was the rule. - (Laughter.) He thought the Provisional Government would be better and went to Canton. He found that the higher the government the more corrupt it was. - (Laughter.) Finally he went to Peking, but he found things there one hundred times more corrupt and rotten than areas in Canton, and he was forced to the opinion that, after all, village government was the purest government in China. - (Applause.) He was told that the good governments in England and in Europe were not at first natural to those places, but that men had brought years ago there was just the same corruption, just the same forgeries in the Courts, and the same cruelty. But, he was told, Englishmen loved liberty and that Englishmen had said. He shall no longer stand these things, we shall change them." Then the idea came into his head. "Why can we not change it in China?" - (Applause.) We must imitate the same thing; we must change the government first, before we can start anything. Without good government a people could do nothing and in China "we had no government" and were miserable for many centuries. "Immediately after I graduated I saw" added Dr Sun "that it was necessary to give up my profession of healing men and take up my part to cure the country. (Loud applause.) That is the answer to the question, where did I get my revolutionary ideas: it is entirely in Hong Kong. - (Laughter.)

孫中山於香港大學大學堂(今陸佑堂)演講

～摘錄自羅香林著《國父在香港之歷史遺跡》(小題及分段為編者所加)～

國父與香港大學有密切關係，此為香港人士所熟知者。蓋國父昔年所畢業之西醫書院，後乃合併於香港大學醫科，國父不啻為香港大學早年校友，此其一；國父於民國二十年（一九二三年）二月二十日、於百忙中至香港大學大禮堂，為一次公開演講，自云：「從前在香港讀書，其教育是香港得來，．．．革命思想係香港得來。」以港大為其學問與思想之見證地址，語重深長，不同泛論，此其二。關於前一史實，余於上述國父與西醫書院遺蹟時，既為提及，關於後史實，則擬於此，述其遺蹟。此雖可云依時代先後為序，然亦以其意義重大，確堪奉為國父在港遺蹟之殿軍也。

先是，國父自畢業香港西醫書院後，終於演生宣統三年（一九一一年）之武漢起義，不旋踵而各省響應，群派代表，集議於南京，組織中華民國臨時政府，選舉國父為臨時大總統。國父尋以謀求全國統一，復毅然去辭臨時大總統職務。至民國十年（一九二一年），國會議員群集會於廣州，復選舉國父為非常臨時大總統，雖翌年六月，不幸為叛軍葉舉所襲擊，脫險後，未幾乃離粵至滬，然不久，所部滇粵桂各軍，復攻克廣州，變亂漸平。至民國十二年春，即電迎國父回粵，主持一切。國父乃於是年二月十五日、離滬南下，十七日抵港，即寓舊友楊西巖家。當即拜會港督，翌日再赴港督府午餐。抵港督府時，港督已先鵠立府門笑迎，即攜手同入，極意歡迓，談論融洽，至覺友善。

孫中山訪問港大當年報道

旋國父即應香港大學同學會（按：即香港大學學生會）邀請，於二十日上午十一時、至港大大禮堂（按：後來改稱陸佑堂），作公開演講。據翌日香港各華文報紙，所記國父在大學堂演說之新聞云：

「昨日上午十一點、孫中山先生在本港大學堂演說，座中有輔政司施雲君、普樂君、爵紳何東君、及陳友仁君等，與會者多大學堂會友，約有四百餘人。大學堂學生會義華何東君（按：即何東之子何世儉），起而向孫先生致歡迎詞。次由輔政司施雲君演說，大致亦向孫氏表示歡迎。孫中山先生是日穿長衫馬褂，頭戴氈帽，精神奕奕，用英語演語。

演講全文

「略云：此次返香港，如返自己家鄉一式，因為從前在香港大學讀書，其教育是在本港得來。今日乘此時機，答覆各位一句。此句云何？即從前人人問我，你在何處及如何得到革命思想 吾今直言答之：革命思想，從香港得來。回憶三十年前，在香港讀書，功課完後，每出外遊行，見本港衛生與風俗，無一不好，比諸我敝邑香山，大不相同。吾

於每年放年假，必返鄉二次，每次約數禮拜。覺得在鄉間在本港，確大不相懸別。因在鄉間要做警察及看更人方可，因斯二者有槍械在手，晚上無時不要預備槍械，以為防備之用。由此可想到香港地方與內地之比較，因為香港地方開埠不過七八十年，而內地已數千年，何以香港歸英國掌管，即佈置如許妥當因是返香山與父老斟酌，各父老莫不謂然。吾有一次返鄉，遂主張由我個人發起親自灑掃街道，為清道夫。(哄堂及鼓掌)。在村內有多數少年，贊成如此做法，極有進步。後面見香山知事，解明來意，欲仿效香港，整頓地方。知懸亦喜，且云：極願幫忙。不幸放假完滿，再要返港。迨第二次返鄉，欲再求縣官幫助，始悉縣官已離任多時，其缺已為繼任者用五萬圓購買之。此等腐敗情形，激起我革命之思想。又見香港之腐敗事尚少，而中國內地之腐敗，竟習以為常，牢不可破。始初以為我敝邑香山一縣如是，及後再到省城，其腐敗更加一等。

「由此想到中國之官，勢位越高，貪念越熾，所以北京各處，更有甚焉。吾曾與英國之西人朋友閒談，僉云良好之政府，並非與生俱來，須人事造成之，數百年前，英國官僚多係腐敗，迨後人心一振，良好之政府遂得以產生。由是吾之革命思想愈堅，深知如中國無良好政府，辦事必不能成。迨畢業而後，在社會行走，遂毅然決然，脫離醫學，而轉以救國為前提。惟是革命以來，亦有多少人反對，且多加以毀謗，不明我素抱之宗旨，且疑我為激烈派。惟吾人之宗旨，無非欲得好政府而已。雖然，中國革命以還，十二載於茲，不特無甚進步，人民之苦更深，因是有少數人，且欲恢復帝制。但須知，民國係以民為主，故稱為民主國，人人皆有一份，不容放棄者也。民國現時廢除帝制，如拆了一間舊屋，其新屋尚未建築完竣，而一有風雨，居民受苦倍深，此勢所必然者。但將來必有完竣之一日，不有艱苦，何能底於成。吾之所以百折不回者，無非為一勞永逸計，為大眾謀將來之幸福計耳。(大鼓掌)。

「有等西人，亦曾向余問及，何以中國反正後亂事多過從前，吾祇答以緣故極多，現在革命事業只行了一半，譬如香港山頂，有一大石，由山跌下，至半途為樹枝所阻遏，不能一直跌下，而樹枝終有枯之一日，障礙物既除，大石自然跌到平地，吾所抱之宗旨亦如是耳。無論若何艱辛，一定要革命成功。(大鼓掌)。中國有一良好政府，我心願已足。現時香港有六十餘萬人，皆享安樂，亦無非有良好之政府耳。深願各學生，在本港讀書，即以西人為榜樣，以香港為模範，將來返國，建設一良好之政府，吾人之責任方完，吾人之希望方達。極望諸生勉之。云云，孫先生演說既畢，忽有學生五六人，將孫先生抬起，直抬出頭門拍照，一面步行，一面揭帽歡呼。孫先生亦揭帽答禮，歡聲震天，至一點方散會。孫仍乘摩托車返楊西巖住宅，駐節。聞定今天(廿一號)搭船上省……」