

She let me try the shoes on but they were snug and I wasn't allowed to stand up in them. I think these were her trousseau. (is that spelt correcttly - I doubt it).

Granny was sold as a little girl to a wealthy tobacco merchant's family. Because she was tiny and pretty and of pleasant disposition she was treated well. She served tea. She wore black silk pants and gaily coloured embroidered tunics and little flat silk embroidered shoes.

One day some time after she had the fright of her life bleeding! She had started to menstruate and thought she was going to die. She was very serious when she told me <sup>about</sup> ~~ab~~ this she told me how ~~terribly~~ <sup>terribly</sup> ignorant she was. Well a few years later I think she was 15 or 16 the lady of the house asked her to go to the garden and collect some fresh flowers for the house. Grandpa was in the garden to observe her. He liked what he saw and Granny was duly told she was to be married. She didn't talk often about Grandpa but she did say she was very fortunate to have been married to a kind and gentle man. Shortly after they were married Grandpa took her to Canada. Poor Granny, she was frightened but Grandpa was kind and Granny is a very stoic person. I love her so dearly.

After reading much Chinese history and the classics and understanding the Chinese culturally a little more deeply I came to think Granny could not possibly be a first wife because she was a little servant girl and a man ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> Grandpa's standing would not take a servant girl as first wife. Granny never ever complained about anything her cup was always half full never ever half empty.

She washed my mouth with soap twice: Once when I arrived at the laundry Friday afternoon and informed her we, she had descended from monkeys and the second time was for talking back to her! Come to think of it although she was a sort of Christian, ~~Confucius~~ her values were really more confucian. I think this was the source of her strength. If China is to succeed socially and economically I really do think they will have to let Confucian thought, morals and ethics come to the fore once again.

This is all for now I have to go to the doctor to finalise arrangements for my back surgery scheduled for Sept. 10. My ruptured disc has been relentlessly annoying so I'm going to get it fixed once and for all.

Will be writing Aunt Joan or telephoning her soon. I've been very busy painting, sketching and practising meditation. Still swim one hour every day to keep in shape  
Love to Lesley.

Virginia

Please disregard all spelling and typographic errors. THANK!