

Great Mother

My mother was one hundred and two
When she was still trying to find things to do
She did call her grandchildren by wrong names occasionally
They felt her love and care so very warmly

Mother said she did not want any more responsibility
Accepting that her mind was uncoordinated recently
She enjoyed hearing any family member's achievement at work or study
And showed her appreciation and elation notably

Mother was born in the last century
Her birthplace was in a humble remote village
She did not have the opportunity for school education
But she lived by Confucian ethics and Buddhist compassion
She taught me to spare no effort and creativity working for productivity
And be courageous in helping people and animal in severe tragedy

Mother had an unusual life experiencing famines wars and victory
She endured much material losses and spiritual affliction quietly
She often said that failure and suffering should champion for new endeavours
Humans have the natural power to adapt and embark on new paths

Once when I was ten mother guided me to watch clouds fleeting
She told me white clouds could change into dark clouds storming
And cosmic changes are usual as changes in worldly life
I should learn from people who mount life changes to grounds high

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Mother is blessed with this amiable quality to make lifelong friends
Despite continuous wars and separation they got united again and again
Their children were cared together to become brothers and sisters
Like nations of all peoples and cultures united harmoniously continuous

Mother and I had not often been together due to conflicting circumstances
But she always had something to teach me in our togetherness
Shortly before she passed away she show me how to exercise lying on her back
To stretch two arms high with fingers locked like a bamboo mat
Then turn the arms left in a wide circle flexing the muscles tight
Repeating the turns rightwards until one is tired

The last time I was with my mother I told her I practised her exercise every night
She kept telling me how great it was to have me and family in her prodigious life
Emphatically she expressed her satisfaction and gratitude before she retired
In the following morning I found her out of living breath wearing a smile
That was how my great mother gone
To yonder sphere where she would surely live happily on

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