

## **CHAPTER III**

### **ANALYSIS**

#### **A. The Novel As Seen Through the Intrinsic Approach**

Letter from Peking is written by Pearl S. Buck who is well-known for her effort in bringing understanding about East towards West. The novel itself depicts the assembly of East and West which always characterises most of her works.

The author tells the story in the first person form. This kind of story-telling using "I" that here stands for Elizabeth, invites readers to be close to the narrator as if we experience it ourselves. Readers will be able to feel Elizabeth's efforts, difficulties, strength, happiness and poignancy in her cross-cultural interaction with Gerald. It is exactly the aim of Buck that readers will be aware, consider, even approve or disapprove with the narrator. Thus, the idea of understanding between East and West will be well appreciated by readers.

The exposition of the story is signed by the arrival of Gerald's letter to his wife, Elizabeth, from Peking to Vermont, America. This exposition itself opens the conflict. Earlier, readers are able to sense the sorrow and difficulties undergone by the couple. Gerald MacLeod who is half-Chinese keep staying in China, while his wife, Elizabeth MacLeod who is an American woman, is forced to leave him to America.

As the story grows we learn that the character of Elizabeth stands for American culture and Gerald stands for Chinese. The interaction done by them means the assembly of two different customs, value, beliefs, society structure, and so on. It also means both Gerald and Eliz undergo adjustment towards each other. How they identify each other, the needs, barriers, and respond to each other according their cultural heritage.

The plot itself is presented by jumping from one event to another, in accordance with Eliz's memories of her interaction with Gerald during their separation. It shows Eliz's loyalty of love against barriers and obstacles. How she insists on trying to understand her beloved, and how Gerald's wound of being rejected of his Chinese blood by his father make the story more complicated. The adjustment across cultural lines fundamentally needs active participation and involvement of both. Furthermore readers will get to know how far the development of adjustment done by the couple.

Later, the story grows more and more into sadness and sorrow. The situation of both of them is getting complicated and depressed. The climax itself gives difficult choice. The possibility of being united again is beyond their reach. The communist in China is very strict and unpredictable. They find it difficult to cope with them. They are not able to communicate even through letters. The worse, Gerald must cut himself of his past, his American part, and shows loyalty to the new government by forgetting Eliz and his son, also by having another woman, A Chinese one, in his side.

The disparate culture of Eliz and Gerald is potential in producing conflicts. Whether and how conflicts appear in these cross-cultural interaction will be uncover in the following analysis. In addition, the writer also uses cross-cultural psychological and cultural approach to help the analysis.

## **B. Gerald and Elizabeth's Cultural Background**

This analysis deals with cross-cultural interaction especially the adjustment taken place. Thus, initial information about the cultures is essential. Knowledge about the cultures will enable the writer and readers to reveal the personality and way of thought of Gerald and Elizabeth, the ones who undergo this adjustment. We will learn how both cultures stand differently and how they shape and influence their traits.

Gerald MacLeod, a scientist graduated from Harvard with Summa Cum Laude, is the only son of Dr. MacLeod and Han Ai-Lan. His father is an American scientist and his mother is a native Chinese woman. Thus, Gerald is half-Chinese. Gerald was born in Peking but he has American nationality since he was registered at the American Embassy.

His physical appearance is more Chinese than American. He has black hair, black eyes, and clear smooth skin of Chinese. The mixed blood in him contributes the wonderfulness structure of his body. As a man, he is a handsome one.

In addition, he has Scotch's blood too.

"There are old Scotch families in Virginia, and my grandmother always insisted that her great-great-grandfather Daniel was among the first-founders." (15)

Indeed, Gerald's characteristics is more Chinese than American. It happened because of the influence of his mother's old Chinese family. As man child, his old ancestral Chinese family adores him. He is guarded, pampered and loved. He is brought up in the mighty ocean of love. Those Chinese traditions do so for in the men children lay their hope of eternal life. It is always the sons who are welcomed at birth and are given privilege, protection and pampering love. Gerald feels so accepted and loved in his Chinese family.

Besides, the close tight that is more to Chinese is heightened since he has the wound of being rejected by his father. Baba, Gerald's father, is shocked and not prepared with the thought that his son is Chinese. He is unprepared of that fact although he understands that his wife is Chinese. Baba does not love Ai-Lan and never thinks of having a child from her. The feeling of not being wanted had remained deep in Gerald. It is a wound that can never heal.

The Chinese quality is so alive in Gerald. His personality reflects a Chinese more than American. Mostly his attitudes is conducted by his Chinese culture.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth Duane is the only daughter of an American spouse. Mrs. Kirke, her mother, comes from Boston. She is rigid in mind and body. Her father, Mr. Kirke is skeptic but has broad mind that is open to the world. This is inherited to Eliz that plays role in her relationship with Gerald. She is studious and independent. In short, Eliz is like any other American girls.

I was, it seems to me now, a very ordinary girl. There had been nothing enlarging in my childhood. Even my mother was a limiting influence. She had no large emotions, no world feelings. The church to which we went taught me nothing of the much-talked-of and seldom practiced brotherhood. My father was skeptic, but he was not a preacher even of his own idea (75).

We can see clearly her American quality plays its role in getting acquaintance with Gerald. Their first meeting accidentally happened when Eliz enters the hall of the campus and Gerald is just out of it. At that moment Eliz has already been fascinated by him, and even decides to get and make him hers.

We did not speak that day on the steps, but we looked full into one another's eyes, and instantly I made up my mind forever. I would learn what his name was and tell him he was mine (76).

Eliz is the one who manages to search and chaste Gerald. She manages to talk, meet and approach to him. Finally, she wins Gerald's heart. Even she offers him to consummate their love before they are married.

"If you think I shall not love you for some hidden reason I do not know, then come to my room tonight. Let us hide nothing from each other. Let us make sure before we marry." (26)

She does so for Gerald's wounded experience of being rejected of his Chinese part by his father. It contributes to his doubt about Eliz's love. He is hesitated whether she will accept, understand and love his Chinese part. He is so afraid of being rejected will reoccur. Later we will discover that the trauma of being rejected deeply hurts and haunts him forever. Consequently, it will become barriers in doing the adjustment. It will be an obstacle to mediate and synthesize to Eliz's American culture. Gerald's feeling of more Chinese is so deep that he may ignore other culture, especially the American side of his father, in accordance of being unloved and unwanted by him.

Moreover, Elizabeth-Gerald's cross-cultural interaction increases into high level of intimacy since their status then is husband-wife. Their cross-cultural interaction's aim is to make a life. Thus it needs participation of both. This high and long term frequency of contact entails the ability of identifying each other together with their needs, and then accord that heritage legitimacy in their dealings one another. How they comprehends

and appreciates each's cultural heritage and the changes occur upon him will be learned in the following analysis.

### **C. The Impact of Being Rejected of His Chinese Blood on Gerald**

Initial identification about a partner's culture is essential in the process of cross-cultural adjustment. It will be a great help to predict how a partner's acts, thus it also gives knowledge how to respond to a partner's attitude. Within the story, precisely in the process of adjustment undergoing by Eliz and Gerald, these factors must be learned since it influenced their adjustment so much. Furthermore, in Gerald himself there is a traumatic experience that is unceasingly haunt him. This event is significant to comprehend since it shapes and influences Gerald's attitude towards his adjustment with Eliz. It is exactly the case of being rejected of his Chinese blood by his father.

Gerald, as a son of a Chinese woman and an American father, possesses a deep wound. Unluckily it comes from his father himself. Baba, his father, is married to a Chinese woman, without enough awareness and preparation of the possibility of a mixing blood in their child. He married his wife, Han Ai-Lan, because his Chinese close friend, HanYu Ren, asked him to do so. He actually does not mean to have a wife, since his American girl refuses him to join him to China. Thus, his broken heart makes him enjoy his scientific activity. Unfortunately, it still works on him

eventhough he has already married Han Ai-Lan. He is not prepared for that, also for having a child. Thus the existence of Gerald who appears more Chinese than American, shock him so much.

"It was a shock to think my son was Chinese. I wasn't prepared."

He did not want him. And that not being wanted had remained deep in Gerald's being, a dagger never withdrawn, a wound never healed (121).

Consequently the feeling of being unwanted, unloved by the person who is supposed to give him love and care results as an irritation for Gerald. The wound is deep rooted within his soul. It is never healed. Thus, Gerald chooses his own world. His father's rejection makes Gerald not close to his father. Meanwhile the old ancestral Chinese family of his mother adore and give ocean of love to him. The feeling of being rejected at one side and loved at the other side, leads Gerald to choose the comforting one which accepts and gives him love as his own world. It is exactly the Chinese culture. Moreover the wound and pain of being unwanted will make China become his forever choice.

The decision in making China as his own world together with the wound, produces Gerald's weakness in making up his mind. He is not pretty aware of his present position of two worlds: China and America. The wound makes him prefer to choose China.



As the story grows, the choice deals as a barrier that obstruct the adjustment and it is potential to produce conflicts. All of that prevent the adjustment of Elizabeth and Gerald to gain its maturity. No matter Eliz tries, as long as Gerald is still wounded and haunted by it, he will always make China as his only choice. It also makes him give less respond and anticipation to his and his wife's need as their interaction across cultural line. Indeed, adjustment across cultural line demands mutual participation. Otherwise it will be far from self awareness and personal growth, and later it will lead to distortion and ungained aim.

Early in his relationship with Eliz, during their ove affair, Gerald hesitates about Eliz's love. He fears that Eliz may be offended by his Chinese blood. Eliz's declaration of her faithful love towards him, still make Gerald wonders. He realises that his physical appearance is more Chinese, so that people surely will consider him as Chinese. In fact, this is the matter that makes his father rejects him. Although it occurred in past, the wound is always fresh in Gerald's mind. The wound of not being accepted, unwanted and unloved.

"Your father was afraid I might not like China. More than that, he wanted to be sure that I could love what was Chinese in him. Until he was sure, he would not marry me. It took time. He doesn't give himself all at once." (68)

The rejection from his father, the unprepared condition of him to accept his Chinese part, haunts Gerald constantly. Gerald is afraid that

people will be offended and then rejects him for he has Chinese blood within himself. He is afraid that the wound will reoccur. He was hurt once, and it is so terrible. He does not want to be hurt anymore. These always shadows him anytime. It is unavoidable. The pain lives beneath his soul. Thus, in accordance with Gerald's terrible experience, it is reasonable that he is doubtful and is not sure whether Eliz will accept him as he is, the Chinese part of him.

Later, with great and hard attempt, Eliz succeeds to make Gerald believe about her faithful love to him. Even, she has to be the one who always gives in to him, has great patient and understanding, has much love and courage to against her mother's wish, and the peak is by offering him to consummate love before marriage. Soon after their marriage, in accordance with Gerald's wish to be close to China, they move to Peking. Gerald does it so in accordance with his decision that he has already chosen China as his world.

Gerald and Eliz live happily in Peking. They have a happy marriage life. In fact, it deals with Eliz's attempt to understand and comprehend the world which her husband chosen, China, as her also. Eliz so comprehends Gerald and his choice of China. Her love for Gerald is sufficient enough to understand the whole matter of him. She does not ask more. What they have got in their marriage is already enough. She wants nothing more. Thus, they both live happily and are delighted in each other. Unfortunately, Eliz's love and attempt to understand Gerald, together with their happy

marriage life, is not enough for Gerald to realise that he now is standing on two cultures, Chinese and American.

Later, communist which enters Peking, opens a conflict. This event reveals how Gerald confirms to choose China as the only world for him. The communist brings difficult problem within the family, two cultures resemblance. American of Eliz and Rennie, their son, will be considered as a foreigner. They are not accepted by the communist, thus it is not safe for them to stay in Peking. Consequently, they must move from China. Meanwhile, the wound of being rejected of Gerald never healed. It gives weakness for Gerald who has confirmed and decided China as his only world. He will be a stranger in another world except in China. This idea of moving from his world is a completely hard matter. On one side he has already chosen China as his only world. Besides his offended experience will always keep him to do so. On the other side, it is not safe for Eliz and Rennie, people whom he loves, to keep staying in China, so they must leave China. Finally, Gerald decides to keep staying in China rather than to join Eliz and Rennie to move to America.

"Consider, my Eve, that if I leave China now it would be forever. And I'd be a stranger in America." (39)

"Half of me is Chinese," he said. "I shall make that serve. I shall become indispensable."

"And why, Gerald, do you wish to make yourself indispensable here?" "One has to choose," he said (21-22).

Having 15 years of happy marriage in fact can not recover the impact of being rejected. Gerald still chooses China as his choice. Indeed, his decision to make China as his only choice, brings a lack of awareness about the fact that he no longer stands merely on China. His marriage with Eliz makes him now stands on China and America. Unfortunately his insulted experience of being unwanted by his father covers the American culture of Eliz. It is mostly unseen since Eliz is able to adapt to Gerald's Chinese culture.

Gerald does not get new experience and outlook in his cross-cultural interaction with Eliz. Still, China has the priority. It is a matter of his past experience of being unwanted by his father that so much offended him.

Gerald's choice of China, has caused him to keep staying there to serve the country. His country needs him and he believes he will be indispensable. Besides he has great hope for the new government. He is sure that nothing worse will happen. When the situation is back to normal, Eliz and Rennie is able to go back to Peking again, and they will be together as a family.

What Gerald prefers to do actually convey the process of adjustment done by them. So far, he is not mindful of his position yet, that he stands on two cultures. He is also weak enough to make up his mind that involved the need and wish of both he himself and his wife. This lack of mindfulness in the adjustment of cross-cultural interaction will result the lack of successful outcomes. The ignorance of means to reach the goal

will distort the aim of adjustment. One of them is Gerald's little participation in culture-learning task in order to synthesise the appropriate actions depend on both cultural heritage together with both need and wish.

Gerald's choice of China gives him a risk. He gradually finds out that he is no longer free in the city he chose. Slowly he faces the fact that his hopes have less possibility to be real, his wish about the new government is unproven, even the wish to be united again with Eliz and Rennie fades. Finally he has to give up the thought of unity with his family. Indeed, giving up the idea of being united again is a hard and unwanted decision for both of them, for they love each other and keeps their love alive for the day of meeting.

The hint implicitly can be observed from Gerald's letters to Eliz. Slowly but sure, it reveals the hardness and difficulties which occur in Peking during the communist government in China.

*Gerald's 5th letter:*

My Eve, perhaps it is better that you are away for a year or so. In order to succeed, the new government must clear away all obstacles. It is inevitable for some who do not like the new order. But the new order is here. We must live with it and through it (125).

*Gerald's 10th letter:*

I wonder if I chose wisely in not going with you and our son to America. It is too late now. In case I never see you (126).

*Gerald's 11th letter:*

Dearly loved, it is better for us not to plan the day of meeting.

It is better to live life as we find it, you on your side of the world, I on mine (126).

We can observe the mood of his letters from the first one to the others changes to doubt, uncertainty, despair, gloomy and sorrow. The condition in Peking since the communist invasion leads to unsafe condition to talk frankly, even in the written form. All relationship with a foreigner, in this case America of Eliz, is unaccepted. It is dangerous also for both the sender and the receiver. In short, the life through communist order is completely strict and difficult. Finally the idea about living with their own way comes to climax by the existence of Letter from Peking, Gerald's last letter.

But it is necessary now for me to prove myself. It is not enough, it seems, for me to swear loyalty to those in present power. I must forswear all my past, I must curse my non-Chinese blood and declare against the foreign part of myself.

I have been ordered to choose another woman.

I cannot write again. It would be too dangerous for me and too dangerous even for our son. You think him safe in your country, but he is not safe anywhere unless repudiate him and you. (116-117)

We can analyse Gerald's being rejected here as an obstacle of communication in Gerald-Eliz adjustment. The adjustment can not grow mature since it develops less reciprocally. Here, Gerald is not able to see his being standing on two cultures. Along with their adjustment across cultural lines, Gerald always decides China as his only choice.

Gerald's wound is so painful. Thus, the experience of being offended influenced so much in Gerald-Eliz adjustment. Even the faithful love and great attempt of Eliz can not heal it. The frighten of being unwanted so much haunts him, so that it contributes to his lack of maturity in experiencing cross-cultural adjustment. Gerald, as a grown up man, a husband and a father, is supposed to be able to observe that. Indeed, the fear of being rejected and unwanted, covers the outlook and experience he is supposed to know. Eliz is the one to be pitied. She can do nothing. Gerald's painful experience will always lead him to do so Besides, Gerald's attitude is not open enough to share his problem. He makes his own decision without giving enough explanation to Eliz. In her own way, Eliz tries to understand and search the explanation herself.

As the climax, Gerald has to take a risk for choosing China as his first choice. It is unavoidable and unwanted. Unfortunately he has to give up the idea of meeting Eliz and Rennie. It is also not safe any longer for them to keep in touch and to continue their love. They have to live their own life in their own way.

All of them deals with the existence of communist order in Peking. One can never guess what will happen. Gerald himself can not merely be the one to blame. He never dreams that it will grow that bad. The communist order which is strict and completely hard deals with the universe. Still, Gerald is a victim of immature decision he made for himself. Thus, he finally withdraws from cross-cultural interaction with Eliz.

Actually within Gerald himself, his inner conflict is so complex. He loves Eliz, but in accordance with his painful experience, he prefers China, so he chooses China. Indeed he still loves Eliz and they both keep their love until the day of their meeting. Who knows, the world appears reversely. Gerald is doubtful and uncertain about his past decision not to join with Eliz and Rennie going to America. On one side he can not change it, and on the other side he can not stay any longer with the communist for he is no longer free. Gerald's attitude to confront the complexity of being unwanted alone, not sharing it with his wife and also choosing the decision alone with little discussion with Eliz, consequently, makes him to take a risk of withdrawing from the interaction. The happening is unwanted and so poignant for both Gerald and Eliz. In fact they both still love each other and they are both sustained by their passionate love to be united again. In short, the unopened attitude, lack of reciprocal action, and immature adjustment growth, lead to distorted aim.



## **D. Elizabeth's Efforts in Comprehending Gerald's Chinese Culture**

Reciprocal cultural identification is a fundamental key in doing adjustment in intercultural interaction since it is useful in guiding behaviour and structuring interpretation about each other. Indeed, cultural learning must occur from both people who are involved. This analysis deals with Gerald and Elizabeth's undergoing adjustment in intercultural interaction, so it means the writer will analyse both Gerald and Eliz's efforts in cultural learning, including how they gather other's culture, getting acquainted with it, responding and adapting to it, in order to get the aim of the adjustment. In this subchapter, the writer will complete the analysis by uncovering Elizabeth's effort in doing the adjustment.

There is a basic factor to be learned within Elizabeth since it so much motivates and supports her in doing her adjustment towards Gerald's Chinese culture. Indeed it plays a great role in getting knowledge about Gerald and his Chinese part, adopt a new routine and master the communication. It is exactly her love to Gerald.

Eliz's love towards Gerald is a factor that initially makes her establish relationship with Gerald, a man with half Chinese blood. She is in love with him at the very first moment she met him. Gerald is a handsome and beautiful man she had ever seen that makes her instantly make up her mind forever that he will be hers. As a result, she manages all attempts to approach him, asks him to be her friend, and finally tries to win his heart.

Gerald is Eliz's first love, then deepens into the only one. Like any other first love, her love comes to the fullest. Later we will notice that it becomes her motivation and spirit that enable her to take risk in her attempts to establish and nurture her relationship with Gerald.

I saw everyone through the bright mists of my love for Gerald. I am one of the fortunate women who marry their first love. I have no memory of any other. The first run of maple syrup is like first love, always the best, always the fullest, always the sweetest, while there is a purity and delicacy (38).

At that time, around 1940s-1950s, American consider Chinese as a dreadful thing. They see it with strange feeling. They think it is horrible to go and live in China. Eliz is an open minded girl about the world. She has decided to love Gerald, thus she tries to manage the difficulties she met. Although Gerald himself hesitates about her love towards him for he appears more Chinese, she has proven her love to him. Even to do so, she offers him to consummate love before they are married. On the other side, Eliz's mother does not agree if he marries Gerald for he has Chinese blood. But her love to Gerald is much enough to make her defy her mother.

But we had already loved each other, and nothing could keep us apart. I knew, and I defied my mother. "I shall never thank you if you keep us apart," I told her (97).

So far, more and less, we can observe Eliz's American quality. The Americans admit equality between man-woman, freedom in man-woman relationship, and the independence in making his/her own decision. As their intercultural contact comes to the type of high and long term involvement since they are now husband and wife, we will notice how her love supports her to understand Gerald as he is, included his Chinese part. Indeed she tries to see things from Gerald's point of view. Later, she even absorbs Chinese culture.

A woman in love loses herself and I lost myself. I longed to believe what Gerald believed, to worship as he worshipped.

(105)

It is also her love which makes Eliz follows Gerald to Peking after their marriage. She understands that Gerald is more Chinese than American. She has even sensed it earlier in their relationship. She is aware of Gerald's Chinese part when he is doubtful whether she loves and accepts the Chinese on him. Being acknowledged that her beloved is more Chinese, Eliz decides to go to Peking with him, a place that is still strange to her. For Eliz, as long she goes with Gerald, any land is beautiful. And because nothing is strange to Gerald, so nothing will be strange to her. Indeed, she is completely motivated by her love while doing cultural learning task towards Gerald's culture.

Eliz does hard in gathering knowledge about Gerald's Chinese part and get acquainted with it. Her awareness about her beloved's Chinese

part makes her love it as hers also. From here, readers acknowledge that Eliz's deep love produces all effort to comprehend Gerald as he is, included his Chinese part.

Eliz and Gerald have a happy marriage life in Peking. Eliz herself is able to manage the new environment. She can adopt and get involved with people there. She loves their home in Peking, the beautiful side of the city, they are also surrounded with nice neighbours. For Eliz, it does not matter that Gerald is more Chinese. She is able to comprehend it. Her love to Gerald is sufficient enough to understand the whole matter. She does not ask much. What they have already got is enough. Thus, they both live happily and are delighted in each other. Indeed, Gerald is not really open to Eliz about the reason that makes him more Chinese and why he always chooses it. Eliz actually senses it but she merely accepts it. She has asked him but the explanation she gets does not really answer the problem. Here Eliz has the ability to tolerate Gerald's unopened attitude. She is mindful of his being that more Chinese. Thus her responds fulfil Gerald's need to be close to China. After all, she does know that Gerald loves only her. His unopened attitude does not bother her. So far, she just wonders about the reason.

Gerald's choice to prefer China more will be clearly observed while the communist enters Peking. After 15 years of happy marriage life, he prefers to stay in China rather than to join Eliz and their son, Rennie to America. It deals much with his wounded experience of being unwanted

by his father. It makes him constantly keep China as his own world. Eliz so comprehends him. She understand that home is a matter of the heart and spirit. Gerald is more Chinese. Thus, he will be a stranger and alien in another country. Besides, it is also not safe for her and Rennie to stay in Peking, so they must be apart. When the situation in Peking is already safe, they can be back to Peking to be united again with Gerald.

On the other side, Gerald's only choice of China, also stands as an obstacle of Gerald-Eliz adjustment. No matter how hard Eliz attempts to comprehend him, he will lack the awareness of his being standing on two cultures: Chinese and American. Moreover, the wound will always keep him to prefer Chinese. It makes the adjustment develops not fully from two sides. It is obstructed at this point. Consequently the people involved will get less new perspective and outlook in their intercultural interaction. The readers at this point is able to find out that Gerald does not fully participate in the adjustment. Thus, it gives him less self awareness about both's need. He is not thoughtful enough to give appropriate respond to both need and wish. Consequently the adjustment lacks maturity.

As the story develops, the separation arises to conflicts, especially inner conflict of both Gerald and Eliz. Readers will acknowledge that the story more and more becomes difficult and sorrowful for both of them. Eliz is unwilling to leave Gerald, but is forced to leave him when the communist enters Peking. Thus, they are sustained by their love during the

separation. Both of them believe that the situation will be better, so they will be together again as a family.

In America, Eliz lives in her family farm, Vermont. While waiting for Gerald and the time of meeting, she spends her time doing farm and garden work. For her, life must flow on, whatever the need of the heart. Indeed, she suffers and bears all the sadness alone.

How curious my life is-how lonely. Loneliness is what I feel here in my own land. Everyone is lonely, pursuing his lonely way. We do not confide, we do not share. The very size of the land divides us. I am as far from Peking-nay, farther, for I have my memories to travel upon across the seas (99).

Besides loneliness, Eliz has to face that people surrounds her no longer believe in the existence of Gerald. It is reasonable for them to think so since the separation runs for 5 years without certain news, at least hope to be together again. Even then they already considers Eliz as a widow. Thus, she has to face the conflict between her love against the reality she gets.

The loneliness and the feeling of loosing Gerald instead of having him, deplete her energy and motivation. Separation from the beloved for 5 years after 15 years of happy marriage life, is a very hard condition for her. Indeed, her need as a woman and a wife is not fulfilled. Meanwhile she is still able to tolerate and manage the stress and tries hard to nurture her love to Gerald.

Eliz tries to overcome the need of Gerald's existence from Baba, Gerald's father. She visits him in Kansas and asks him to live with her. Thus, with Baba besides her, she tries to keep alive her memory of Gerald. Baba is a mediator that link her with Gerald, Peking, and China. From Baba, she finally discovers the whole matter about Gerald. The reason that makes him doubt in their early relationship and Gerald's being that more Chinese. She finally learns that Gerald's being unwanted of his Chinese blood by his father is the cause. Furthermore, Eliz more comprehends Gerald and his Chinese part.

As the story develops, readers will acknowledge that the separation grows not easy for Eliz. As a married woman who has 15 years happy marriage life, then must be apart from her husband without certain news of being united again, makes her suffer. She now must adapt to live alone without her beloved. To be a woman who is forced to live without her husband and his love. Later, the long separation and uncertainty makes her afraid of ceasing of their love.

I feel a certain hardness in me. I am not as tender-hearted as I was. The daily exercise of love is gone and I fear an atrophy. (63)

Still, she confirms and insists herself that she has a husband. Being separated from Gerald does not mean that she does not have him anymore. It just the matter of not being together, the matter of being separated by distance. Indeed, Gerald still lives, does not die. Moreover it

will prevail that Eliz has the ability to tolerate and manage the stress. She tries to cope her conflict well. She keeps the thought of not surrender to the reality and the thought of being able to stand it. Thus, she must occupy the loneliness and not let their love die.

Because he lives I too must live, though memory remains between us like a cord, so that I cannot be separated from him. Yet we are apart in time and space, and time must be filled and space occupied. (31)

Eliz's deep love to Gerald makes her think that there is nothing eternal about their separation. She believes that at any moment Gerald may decide to come to her. Thus, she fulfils her need of him and his love with dreams.

I will not let love die, not while he lives and so I feed on dreams. I am not true widow. My beloved liveth. Therefore my mind floats over land and sea to the city which is his, and like a ghost reep through the streets, and into the gate where he lives. This I have done again and again in the years we have been parted. (65)

Five years being separated from Gerald, Eliz finds out that the situation is getting worse. There is uncertain condition about the possibility of being together again. Meanwhile she suffers from loneliness and sorrow, from being a wife without her husband and his love, and from the



fear of the ceasing of their love. On the other side she must be strong in facing the painful and poignant reality, and keep her love to Gerald alive.

Then, it comes to the climax signed by Gerald's last letter. It contains terrible news. Gerald told that the situation during the communist, forces him to forswear all his past and declare against the foreign part of him. Otherwise he himself, together with Eliz and Rennie, will not be safe, even though they live in America. The communist watches them. Gerald also asked not only to be loyal but also must prove it by having a Chinese woman in his side.

Indeed, during 15 years living in Peking, Eliz well absorbs the Chinese. She makes Chinese part of Gerald as hers also. She succeeds in adopting a new routine of Chinese life. In short, she has the ability to comprehend Gerald's Chinese part. Nothing that Gerald does can surprise her, or shock her, or even hurt her. She knows him for she loves him, and shall always love him. Consequently she is able to respond to Gerald's last letter wisely, in the eye of Chinese for Gerald and the situation which forced him deal with Chinese. After managing her inner conflict as a wife and woman that it seems like many rocks have been thrown to hurt her heart, she finally gives permission to Mei-Lan, the Chinese woman whom Gerald is supposed to marry to. It is true she understands Gerald and his difficult position. Nevertheless, as a woman and a wife, her heart breaks. She does so for she loves him and cares for his life.

I give my permission. It is true as you say, that I understand. Nevertheless, my heart breaks. Care for him well, for I love him. (118)

Not long after she receives Gerald's last letter, there are two men proposing her. They are Bruce Spaulden, a doctor of Vermont, and Sam Blaine, Baba's and Rennie's friend. Being sorrowful and uncertain about their love and hope, Eliz is consistent in her mind. Although people consider Gerald as well as dead, for her he lives. Eventhough Gerald never shows up, still he is her husband for they are united in a marriage. Thus, she rejects their propose. So far, in accordance with all that have happened to her, there is no thought of cutting herself from Gerald.

As the loneliness and the sorrow grows deeper, Eliz finds that Gerald cuts one cord after another towards her. He does not write letters anymore and also denies himself the thought of her. Eliz no longer feels the communion with him. No matter she tries to search him in memory and dreams, as she always does to keep the bond with Gerald, this time she can not find him. Gerald has withdrawn from interaction. It means there is no hope about the day of meeting.

The condition contributes to her present strange inner life. She does not believe that Gerald's love ceases. Yet, she can not leave the world which actually does not exist for her anymore as a practical reality (past), so she can not enter to the world in which she is forced to live (present), thus future does not exist to her. She continue to exist in space. She is not

free since she loves him that makes her possess a tie to their life and love in Peking. As long as he lives, Eliz shall not be free.

For Eliz, the reason that makes them separate and the reason that makes Gerald cut off from her, has nothing to do with neither Gerald or her. There are many such reasons that separate people in the world. Thus, they must not allow them to destroy love. They must wait, still loving. Indeed, she thinks that what has happened is not the fault of Gerald nor her. It is the split in the world that has driven them apart, exactly as though a tidal wave had rushed between them on a beach and swept them in opposite directions. She does not blame Gerald. She knows that he loves only her and it has already been proven during their 15 years happy marriage life in Peking. If communist never enters Peking, such sorrowful separation will never occur.

At this point, Eliz must face reality that the possibility to be united again is gone. She must stand it. Now, she begins to do the most earnest wish to leave the world in which she lives with Gerald, and starts to enter the world to which she is compelled by circumstances as far beyond her power to control. Her love makes her chaste and long to possess him. It also makes her attempt to acknowledge China, a place once stranger to her. She is able to adopt even absorb it. She proves it during the separation. She suffers loneliness, sorrowful, unfulfilled need and wish both as a woman and a wife. Also from neighbourhood that considers China as strange and terrible, also Gerald's existence as well as death,

even she gets propose from two men. All her efforts is beyond her reach. Learning that the situation changes worse, she starts to face the reality. She later decides that she finally must understand she really belongs in Vermont, not in Peking. And if she is not so lonely, she will be able to forget Peking and at last even forget Gerald.

Later, as Baba died, died also the symbol of past. Baba is her link with other years in Peking with Gerald. His death has made all links to the past begins to leave Eliz's mind. She can almost imagine now that even Gerald is gone.

As the story ends, something comforts Eliz's heart. At last, love is stronger than country. Gerald finally makes up his mind to come to Eliz and Rennie. He who prefers to keep staying in China, then finds that he loves his family more. He longs to see them. Thus, Gerald tries to escape from Peking. Unfortunately, he is shot while trying to escape. Indeed, Gerald's risk of choosing Chinese more with his own decision, gives risk to Eliz also. In fact Eliz has done her best as a good wife to Gerald, eventhough her attempts is obstructed by Gerald's choice of Chinese only.

## **CHAPTER IV**

## **CONCLUSION**