

Preface

“Tragedy,” a Chinese writer once wrote, “is the ripping of grace into pieces.”

September 27, 1999: Ms. Zhao Jinhua, age 42, was taken from her farmland to a police station in Zhaoyuan City, China. She died after suffering ten days of beating.

Ms. Zhao was known as one of the kindest people in her village. She was a practitioner of Falun Gong.

May 23, 2000: Mr. Su Gang, age 32, a computer engineer in Zibo City, China, was forcibly injected with neurodegenerative chemicals for eight days; he died eleven days later.

Mr. Su was a model worker in his factory. He was a Falun Gong practitioner.

April 18, 2001: The police from Macheng City beat Ms. Wang Huajun, age 36, until she lost consciousness. To set up a “self-immolation,” the police dragged her to the front of city hall, doused her with gasoline, and lit a fire. Ms. Wang regained consciousness momentarily and tried to stand up. However, the police stood around and watched her succumb to the flames.

Ms. Wang was known in the neighborhood as a kind person. She was a Falun Gong practitioner.

January 23, 2002: Mr. Zhan Wei, age 32, died from internal bleeding caused by punitive force-feeding carried out by the police.

Mr. Zhan was known as a most generous person in his company. He was a Falun Gong practitioner.

October 15, 2003: The police beat Mr. Lu Xingguo, age 45, to death. His body was covered with blood, his lips were ripped off, and all his teeth were knocked out.

Mr. Lu was known as one of the very best of the local officials. He was a Falun Gong practitioner.

July 9, 2004: Mr. Tang Jian, age 39, died after suffering months of torture. His body was covered with wounds.

Mr. Tang had won the Outstanding Teacher Award in his high school for many years. He was a Falun Gong practitioner.

January 11, 2005: Mr. Cheng Jingshan, age 64, died from brain damage resulting from police beating. The police beat him so severely that his face was disfigured.

Mr. Cheng was among the kindest grandpas to the children in his village. He was a Falun Gong practitioner.



These tragedies are only the tip of the iceberg of the Chinese government's brutal persecution of Falun Gong. Over 1300 Falun Gong practitioners are confirmed to have died from police violence since July 1999. The actual extent of the atrocities cannot be known due to the authorities' blockage of information.

These people could have stayed alive if they had agreed to renounce Falun Gong. In fact, that is the option the authorities "offer" to Falun Gong practitioners. In the same way the pagan rulers two thousand years ago offered the Christians a choice to conform before martyring them, the Chinese communist dictators want Falun Gong practitioners to "transform," to sign pledges to give up Falun Gong.

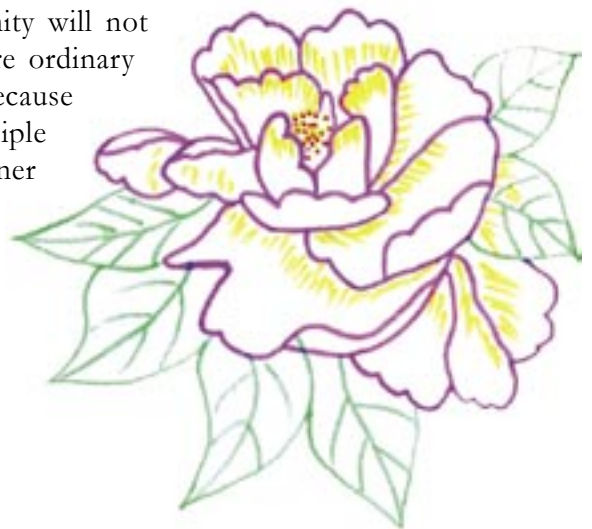
The stakes are so high and the choice is so "obvious," it is no wonder some people cannot comprehend: why not pretend to give in and practice Falun Gong secretly at home?

One Falun Gong practitioner wrote about her experiences in a jail: "The guards ordered the convicts to force me to recite the 'rules for convicts.' I refused to do so, no matter how they beat me, because I am not a convict. They said I was a convict, the same as they were, or I would not be in jail. I told them, 'No, I was jailed because I insisted on my conscience; I can get out easily by renouncing Falun Gong, but none of you can.'"

This simple account depicts the persecution at its core: reversing right and wrong, coercing the innocent to bow to guilt. Why are Falun Gong practitioners so unyielding to the coercion? Why are they so uncompromising in insisting on their conscience? If right and wrong can be compromised, why have right and wrong? If good can cave in to evil, what will values and principles be based on? Conscience, the innate knowing of goodness, is the very essence of humanity. Everything else, even our "inalienable rights," can be forcibly taken away. The alteration of our conscience, no matter how small, must be consented to from within. Conscience, thus, defines human nature, and the right to conscience is a human being's most fundamental right.

No crime, therefore, is worse than the crime against conscience. The Chinese government's persecution of Falun Gong not only violates Falun Gong practitioners' right to conscience, but is also an assault aimed at the destruction of human nature.

People who understand the true meaning of humanity will not give up being good people. Falun Gong practitioners are ordinary people from all walks of life; they are also extraordinary because they made a conscious commitment to follow the principle of Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance, to cultivate their inner selves and improve their mental and moral quality. This inevitably leads to individual integrity, courage, and universal love.



People thus enlightened will not submit to evil. The perseverance of Falun Gong practitioners is not only an insistence of their own right to conscience, but also the most gallant defense of humanity. The sacrifices they have made in peace are not passive suffering, but the truest embodiment of their conscious choice of goodness in resisting evil.

As a dedication to the bravery of Falun Gong practitioners, we present their stories in this book. Many Falun Gong practitioners have risked all to publicize the violations that they or their fellow practitioners have suffered. Their reports must not be taken lightly, lest the most fundamental values of humanity be forsaken.

The stories in this book, and in future volumes to come, represent the ultimate dedication Falun Gong practitioners have made to humanity. Their conscience, courage, and sacrifices will forever remain humanity's most precious heritage.