“Struggle Session”

FATHER

What did I do wrong?

How did I betray Chairman Mao?

I loved you, Chairman Mao.

I love the Communist Party.

Mao has said:

Dust will gather

in a room not swept;

a face grows filthy

if we do not wash.

Our minds

Our minds…

must also be swept and washed.

Struggle session!

Struggle session of one.

Struggle session inside my cell.

Look within:

blow away the dust,

wipe away the dirt

make my mind clean.

These bars are rough and cold.

Hear my wedding ring against the bar:

Ah! Ah! Ah!

The only music I can make.

I am grateful they left me my ring.

The moon is floating free,

swimming with its family, the stars.

Moon! Moon! Moon!

Will I see my family again?

I embrace my memories of them.

My mind is clean,

My eyes are clear,

I see the moon,

I hear my ring,

I miss my children,

I miss my wife,

But still I struggle!

What did I do wrong?