

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

After analyzing Redemption in *Paradise of the Blind*, the thesis writer concludes that Aunt Tam's does redemption because of her feeling guilty to her brother, Ton, for not facilitating his education until higher education. Ton is a schoolteacher in the village because he is only a graduate of secondary school. Therefore, Aunt Tam redeems her feeling guilty to her brother by providing all Hang's needs like food, clothing, and medicine. She provides everything for Hang's success. What she does to Hang above shows her redemption to her brother. Her feeling guilty for not expensing her brother's education is redeemed by sending and expensing Hang to study abroad.

The thesis writer also concludes that Que, Hang's mother, decides to redeem because of her feeling of guilty towards Hang by not telling who Hang's real father is after Que sees Hang having a nightmare that makes Hang cry on her pillow for a long time after the neighbors mock Hang for not having a father figure. After she sees the suffering of her child, Que finally decides to tell who Hang's real father is; a father she never knows. Que's feeling guilty for not telling about her father is redeemed by telling the truth about her father. Que also redeem her feeling guilty towards Hang, which makes Hang sad and hurt because she has ignored Hang and given more attention to Do family, Que's biological family rather than paying attention on Hang. After seeing her daughter sadness and hurt, Que feels guilty for her treatments to Hang and she decides to redeem by forgetting what has happened. Que is not angry and speaks in different voice when Hang asks her whether her mother misses her or not. In Vietnam, lotus has a redemptive meaning, so Que makes Hang a pudding of lotus seeds for Hang to redeem her feeling guilty. Her feeling of guilty is redeemed by sleeping together and hugging each other in the evening. For Hang, no one can replace her mother.

In the redemption on the character in the novel entitled *Paradise of the Blind* we can learn about one of the values of life that necessary to be considered in example what is right and wrong and what is the best and the worst. We have to consider what is the effect of our deed. We have to consider whether we do harms other people or not. We have to think the moral value in society in acting and interacting with other people.

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APPENDIX I

Synopsis of *Paradise of the Blind*

The main character of Duong Thu Huong's *Paradise of the Blind* is Hang. Her maternal grandfather, who died long before Hang was born, had practiced traditional medicine. He cured a number of gravely ill patients but didn't succeed in saving himself from a mysterious illness at the age of forty-three. Probably cancer, judging from the symptoms. Her grandmother was forty-two years old when he died. She never decided to remarry and devote herself to their children, her mother, Que and her younger brother, Chinh. Ten months later, a brutal typhoid fever killed her. Her mother was nineteen years old, her uncle Chinh eighteen. By chance, a relative who attended the funeral took her uncle with him to join the Viet Bac underground, the anti-French resistance movement in the mountainous north. Later her uncle joined the Liberation Army. Her mother stayed behind in the village. She worked as a street vendor, living off the sales of snacks and goods that she lugged along with her in a hamper. She used the money to tend the graves of their ancestors and to keep up their grandfather's house.

After her parents and her brother left for the underground, she lives alone. The young toughs and lecherous village chiefs sought her out like vultures. When she couldn't sleep, she burns three incense sticks and pray to ancestors, imploring them to protect her in this life. It is during this solitary year, she meets Ton, is a schoolteacher who had just been posted to the village. Because their courtship began quickly, too quickly for the taste of the village public. According to the tradition, after the death of her parents she should have observed a three-year mourning period during which she did not have the right to court, dress up, or join in the Buddhist festivals. When they get married, Ton subjected himself to the contempt and mockery of the entire village.

Exactly one year and two months after the marriage, peace declared throughout the country. The soldier returned from the Viet Bac underground in the north. But Que's younger brother, six months after liberation, he just arrives. He arrives to forbid his sister not speak to, or have any further contact with her husband, Ton with argument that Ton's entire family are landlords that hire farm

labor, so they belong to the exploiting class. And they must denounce and punish. Chinh struck hard and fast. Grandmother and Aunt Tam were forced to prostrate themselves, head bowed, arms crossed behind their backs, in the communal village courtyard. In second denunciation, Grandmother fell ill and died.

A few days passed. It is nightfall, and Aunt Tam had prepared Ton's escape. Que forbid to mix with these landowners and Chinh will introduce her to his superior, captain of a transmission battalion. But Que left the village that December evening. Six months later, Chinh left the village himself to join the Land Reform Section. One day, Que resurfaces after "Special Section for the Rectification of Errors" had just arrive in the village. Of all the former leaders, Chinh is the most hated. No one knows where he had gone to hide. For the villagers, the only target for their vengeance is Que, who had stayed behind in their ancestral home. But Aunt Tam helps with her statement that they have got their rice paddies back, but she cannot get her husband back.

Que couldn't live in the village any longer. No one had the guts to hate her, but her presence seemed to brew a kind of rancor. She then mortgaged the house to a relative and left her village for Hanoi. At the beginning of the sixth year, Ton meet someone he had seen in a neighboring village, separated from his own by only a small canal. He told Ton of the events that had befallen his village. He knows her sister, Tam and his wife Que. The following week, he left with him to looking for Que. Finally, they find Que live in under the leaky roof of this pathetic hovel, in this place they live and love each other.

When Que is preparing to give birth, Ton left for the Muong village. He thought he could get permission from his Muong wife to come to town and help Que himself with the child. But the woman refused. They probably quarreled. She must have insulted him, accused him of ingratitude. He could stand hunger, thirst, even cold. But not shame. One morning he went out into the forest. Hunters found his body washed up at the edge of a river two days later.

Aunt Tam cannot forgive Chinh. If he had not persecuted him, he would not have hide in that village, in exile. He would not have died so horribly. She is living her vengeance now, crushing everything that blocked her way. But she very loves Hang, Ton's daughter, a repressed, buried under years of hatred and revenge. Until Que jealous because Aunt Tam fulfill all Hang's need in Que limitation as a mother for Hang. Since Aunt Tam had come into their life, her mother had stopped

dotting on me and calling her “her dear child”. She had become distant and reserved, but they still led the same life under the same roof.

Uncle Chinh come to ask her to sell the house in the village because he needs much money to fix an apartment. The next morning, Hang and her mother go to village. It is the first learned about her father. But her mother doesn't want to tell about him. One day, Uncle Chinh is very sick. Que and Hang visit him to the hospital, but they have come too late. He was discharge yesterday evening. Then they go to Uncle Chinh house. But it seems Chinh doesn't like with their visit. However, Que cannot deny blood ties. Que always effort to fulfill Chinh's family need. Hang feel jealous. Hang's mother think that Hang's need had already filled by her Aunt. So she doesn't worry. He is all the family she had left. He is so unhappy. Needs so much. Then Hang doesn't jealous again. And her mother asks don't ever stop loving her. Hang feel pity because she works hard to get money with selling in traditional market.

Hang realize her mother had a mission now, a new source of happiness, to serve the needs of her little cousins. How intoxicating it can be, self-sacrifice. Every night, she watched her mother count out her money, breathing noisily, whispering sums between her teeth. She never cares about herself. Until Hang feel sad because her mother love people who enslaved her. One day, Hang passed her exams and was accepted to the university. Aunt Tam gives some money for traveling. Aunt Tam also inviting the family and the neighborhood to celebrate her success. Because she is the first, the only one in the entire Tran family line, to get to the university. Because Aunt Tam had taken her under her protection, and because her mother had already found another object for her affections, a kind of indifference had slipped into their relationship. Her mother feel that she has Aunt Tam for everything. She sought her love, while she sought recognition from Do family.

At the celebration, Aunt Tam had made one of her favorite soup, a mixture of lily buds, puree of crab, and crab eggs. For desert, she brought out two bowls of a homemade pudding made of potato flour and mashed lotus seeds. She had put so many lotus seeds in the paste that it smelled sweet and fragrant even without any vanilla. And for each guest, she gives five plate: white meat pate, mixed pate, pate roll, spring rolls, and roasted meat. And five bowls, asparagus soup, vermicelli soup, soup made from chicken marinated in lotus-seed sauce, vegetable soup, and a chicken curry soup.

After the banquet at Aunt Tam's, she had left the village and return to her house in Hanoi. When Hang ask her did she miss her, her mother answer that of course she missed her. She is the one who never thinks about anyone else. She just has had some good times. Hang hug, laugh, and said that is true, she didn't think much about anyone except her mother. And she said that no one can replace a mother. She lowered her head. Perhaps this was the silence of contentment. That evening, she made a lotus-seed pudding. At night, she slept in her arms.

Hang is one of the privileged ones. Aunt Tam had given her fabric coupons for everything, khaki, wool, nylon, colored poplin, synthetic fibers mixed with silk. It is enough to clothe her for four years. But her mother insisted on buying her a coupon for a special eggplant-colored cloth with white polka dots that was imported from Japan. She buys it herself on Cotton Tree Street and had a shirt made from it for her in a well-known dress shop. She keeps wearing that ridiculous shirt just to see her mother smile. No longer feel the stab of sadness, the despair that had weighed her down as a child.

Her mother now had her place in Do family. She didn't feel abandoned or disdained anymore. This is her mission, to gather, coin by coin, the money necessary to serve the needs of her brother. She not terribly farsighted. But the happiness lasted a year. The following year, Uncle Chinh came down with diabetes. And Hang's mother effort to pay his treatment. Until Hang hunger and ask to sell jewelry from Aunt Tam, but her mother forbid. Until the next morning, Aunt Tam arrive and anger after see her dearest niece become skeleton. Then she permits her to sell it. But she forbids to use her money to feed her brother Chinh because he is mortal enemy, he killed Ton. And she said to Hang that her money, her sweat, and her tears are not going to go to the assassin. From that day, things between them degenerated slowly. First, there was her coldness tinged with irony. Hang effort to break the situation but her mother anger and deport her from home and instruct her to go to Aunt Tam's house. Then she asks the campus to admit her to the dormitory. She had lost again.

Her life as a boarder got off to a good start. As for money, she had no worries. Aunt Tam come to see her every two weeks and gives her money and food. She is better off than the other student, but she missed her mother. She still loved her. She pieced together tidbits of news through friends. Her business was improving. Uncle Chinh had gotten better and had gone back to work. Once again, her mother had fallen ill. Uncle Chinh and his wife had come to visit her. Her

mother proud to introduce her family to the little people of the neighborhood. Hang was relieved and happy for her. But she couldn't seem to dispel her feelings of injustice, humiliation, and loneliness. These people, of whom she was so proud, had torn her family apart.

One day, Neighbor Vi visits Hang at the campus and tell her mother condition. Her mother has really suffered to kick her out, but she had. Neighbor Vi suggest her to visit her mother. Her mother was hit by car on the way to the market. They took her to the Bach Mai hospital. The doctors had to amputate the leg. She stays with her mother in Hanoi for a whole week after her accident. She goes to Uncle Chinh to give the bad news. Uncle Chinh visit to arrive to visit her sister, Que. After her mother lost a leg in accident, she dropped out from studying. And she has got to make a living. She becomes a textile worker in Russia. In the first winter in Russia, the bitter cold that singed her ears, crept into her gloves, tightened around her body like a vise. She leaves herself just enough to keep going, to keep from falling on her faces in the snow. The rest is always for her mother.

In Russia, Hang live with her friend, Tania and Madame Vera. She was sick. For the last few days she had been racked with fever. She had been racked with fever. But she gets a telegram from her Uncle Chinh was very ill. When arrive at Moscow to visit her uncle, someone named Khoa tells that her uncle isn't sick. He had invented the story to get her to come to Moscow. He suggests her doesn't stay here in the suburbs to bribe some people to get anywhere with this imported-goods racket. Also, gives her much money for her uncle when he asks her for help. And tell him she has got to get back to her textile job. After arrive at home, she gets a telegram from Hanoi that Aunt Tam Dying. Khoa helps her to get a plane ticket to Hanoi. Before die, Aunt Tam gives all of her heritage only for Hang. And ask Hang to live in her home. But she goes to sell that house and leave all that behind.

APPENDIX II

Biography of Duong Thu Huong

Duong Thu Huong was Born in 1947 in Thai Binh a province in northern Vietnam, Duong came of age just as the Vietnam War was turning violent. At the age of twenty, when she was a student at Vietnamese Ministry of Culture's Arts College, Duong Thu Huong volunteered to serve in a women's youth brigade on the front lines of "The War Against the Americans". Duong spent the next seven years of the war in the jungles and tunnels of Bình Trị Thiên, the most heavily bombarded region of the war. Her mission was to "sing louder than the bombs" and to give theatrical performances for the North Vietnamese troops, but also to tend to the wounded, bury the dead, and accompany the soldiers along. She was one of three survivors out of the forty volunteers in that group. She was also at the front during China's attacks on Vietnam in 1979 during the short-lived Sino-Vietnamese War. However, in the period after Vietnam's reunification in 1975, Duong became increasingly outspoken and critical about the repressive atmosphere created by the Communist government. Upon seeing the conditions in the South – compared with the North – she began speaking out against the communist government.

Her first novels, *Journey in Childhood* (Hành trình ngày thơ ấu, 1985), *Beyond Illusions* (Bên kia bờ ảo vọng, 1987), [1] *Paradise of the Blind* (Những thiên đường mù, 1988) [2] and *The Lost Life* (Quãng đời đánh mất, 1989) were published in her native Vietnam and soon became bestsellers in Vietnam before they were banned. The third one was also the first Vietnamese novel ever published in the United States in English. [3] Her next three books — *Novel Without a Name* (Tiểu thuyết vô đề, 1991), [4] *Memories of a Pure Spring* (2000), [5] and *No Man's Land* (Chốn vắng, 2002) [6] — have not been published in the United States. She was made a Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government (1994). [7] She earlier wrote a number of short stories and screenplays. One story, "Reflections of Spring," was translated by Linh Dinh and included in the anthology, *Night, Again: Contemporary Fiction from Vietnam* (Seven Stories Press 2006). The latest novel *No Man's Land* (Terre des oublis in French, which won the Grand prix des lectrices de Elle (2007)), perhaps her most

successful, was in the final list of the prize Femina 2006 and received the Grand prix des lectrices de Elle in 2007.

Duong has been labeled as a "dissident writer" and been expelled by Vietnam's Communist party and was imprisoned for a short time in 1991 for remarks criticizing the goals and interests of the party and its members. This is not unusual in contemporary Vietnam; Linh Dinh, in his introduction to the collection *Night, Again*, details the government's extreme response to certain subjects in writing – for example, in 1956, the poet Tran Dan was arrested for capitalizing "He" in a brief passage of a poem cataloging social despair, since such a designation was reserved for Ho Chi Minh. In 1991, Le Minh Khue was still criticized for having a North Vietnamese female soldier daydream about the smile of a handsome South Vietnamese prisoner of war.

Though she was one of Vietnam's most popular writers, most of her fiction is published outside of Vietnam due to both the censorship and the government's monopoly of the publishing industry.

Recently, she has retired and earns a pension of approximately twenty U.S. dollars per month and must earn her living working as a translator and trying to publish her novels and short stories abroad. She believes in struggling to gain democracy; while unable to run for political office or organize a competing party, she now uses writing in order to articulate that message.

In her story "The Story of an Actress," Duong combines her passionate beliefs about human freedom with her existentialist literary sensibilities. Bê and Thom live next door to one another and become best friends; while Bê is intelligent and fun-loving, Thom develops into the town beauty. Thom ends up marrying the most famous theater director in Vietnam, a man 40 years her senior, in an attempt to become an actress; Bê visits her and watches her life disintegrate as she works toward her degree and her own life dream.

On the surface, it seems to be a relatively simple story about two girls growing up and choosing different paths in life. But her language and details betray, as with Ho Xuan Huong, a deeper level to a simple story. She is critiquing a contemporary society where beauty is prized over intellect and money over kindness, and calling attention to how the optimism of youth, when it fades, can be so devastating that it drives people to despair.

According to Dương, most writers must learn how to voice their individual concerns within a group mentality. In other words, their writing must reflect the individual and the masses at large in a way that's approved by the party; Dương finds that most writers in contemporary Vietnam get caught up in the group thinking mentality.

Dương has felt the effects of censorship perhaps more cruelly than many of her fellow writers. Her work is not contained in any Vietnamese anthologies or collections. Though she has achieved success and renown abroad for her novels through translation, the audience she is writing for in Vietnam, that would most understand the minutiae of her stories, does not often have the opportunity to read her work, except when it is smuggled into Vietnam.

Nevertheless, Dương is hopeful for the future of writing in her country. She is counting on the fact that at some point, the people will open their eyes to see what's going on in her homeland.

Dương moved to Paris in 2006. In January 2009, her latest novel, *Đỉnh Cao Chói Lọi*, was published; it was also translated into French as *Au zénith*.



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PENGESAHAN REVISI

Judul Skripsi : REDEMPTION IN DUONG THU HUONG'S
PARADISE OF THE BLIND

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No.	Nama Penguji	Tanggal	Tanda tangan	Keterangan
1.	LINUSIA MARSIAH	5/8 2019		ok.
2.	Adeline Grace M.L.	2/8 2019		ok.
3.	Ariik C.R	5/8 2019		ok.
4.				