

INTERVIEW WITH 杨元英 (YANG YUANYING)

Q: 你叫什么名字啊?
What's your name?

A: 我叫杨元英
My name is Yang Yuanying.

Q: 你今年多大?
How old are you?

A: 今年 16 岁
16.

Q: 老家是哪里的喃?
Where's your hometown?

A: 我家是在汶川县水磨镇老人村 2 组的。
My hometown is Group 2 in Lao Ren Village, Shuimo Township, Wenchuan County.

Q: 5.12 地震是你第经历的第一次地震吗?
Was the 5.12 earthquake the first earthquake you ever experienced?

A: 是, 第一次。
Yes, it was the first one.

Q: 那你说说, 地震那天早上你在做什么?
Tell us, what were you doing the morning before the earthquake hit?

A: 地震那天早上我在家, 那天早上也不知道怎么回事, 那天做什么都比较匆忙, 什么都是丢三落四的, 忘带东西还回家过。中午又到学校了, 就刚刚开始上课, 我还站在讲台上, 整理桌布。
That morning, I was home. I didn't know what was wrong that morning, but I was kind of hasty, forgetful, I'd even gone back home because I forgot something. I returned to class in the afternoon. Class had just begun, I was standing at the teacher's desk stretching the tablecloth.

Q: 就地震了?
Then the earthquake hit?

A: 对。
Yes.

Q: 当时心里是什么感觉？

What did you feel at that moment?

A: 当时完全不知道那是什么，就是浑身在动，还以为是什么地方的水库爆炸了，还是哪里出事了。还在郁闷当中，还在三思的时候，突然旁边有个同学就说，杨音，你快走啊，地震了。我们才开始跑的。

I had no idea what was happening at that moment, my whole body was shaking, and I thought it was an explosion in some reservoir somewhere or something. While I was sitting there wondering about it, my classmate next to me suddenly said “Yang Yuanying! Run! It’s an earthquake!” Then I started to run.

Q: 当时听到的声音是什么样的？

What did it sound like?

A: 那声音...我也不知道该怎么说。有点轰轰轰的，也有点像那种打雷的声音特别像车子刚发动的声音，特别吓人。

That sound... I don’t know how to describe it. It sounded sort of like thunder. It really sounded like the starting of a car, but really scary.

Q: 可以形容一下这个时候的声音吗？

Can you mimic the sound?

A: 是轰。。。就是。。很深的那种轰，很吓人的。

Hoooooh...really scary. A loud hoooooh.

Q: 家里朋友家人，朋友或同学有在地震中受伤的吗？

Were any friends, family, or classmates injured in the earthquake?

A: 我的弟弟在地震的时候脚受伤了，到其他地方去治疗了。我的哥哥也因为地震去世了，我的二爸和二娘也去世了。

My little brother hurt his foot in the earthquake. He is getting medical treatment at some other place. My older brother died in the quake, as did my uncle and aunt.

Q: 那你们家附近受灾比较严重吧？

So the surrounding area near your home must have been hit pretty badly?

A: 是的，是很严重，我们那里当时因为地震去世了很多人。

Yes, very badly. A lot of people passed away because of the earthquake.

Q: 地震后多久来到峨眉山的？

When did you come to Emeishan after the earthquake?

A: 8月22号来的。

We came here on 22nd August.

Q: 那中间的三个月你们做了什么？

What did you do during those 3 months?

A: 在那三个月中，开始我的亲生妈妈把我接到她住的地方，准备在那给我找个学校，担心以后我们学校可以读书，开始在我亲生妈妈那住了一段时间。后来又听说，解放军给我们安置了帐篷学校，就来教我们，爸爸就把我给接回来了，我就和他们一起再帐篷学校读书。但是解放军有时间期限，后来他们就走了。再后来又来了很多来自五湖四海的志愿者，他们来教我读书。

During those 3 months, my biological mother had me move to her town and was planning to find me a school because she was worried that my school couldn't be used anymore, so I stayed there for a while. Then we heard that the People's Liberation Army had set up a tent school and would send people to teach us, so Dad came and took me back home. Then I went to the tent school. But the PLA didn't spend much time here. After they left, a lot of volunteers from various places came here to teach us.

Q: 你爸爸妈妈在哪里？

Where are your Mom and Dad?

A: 我爸爸还是在水磨，我妈妈在都江堰。

My Dad is in Shuimo; my Mom is in Dujiangyan.

Q: 到了这边，生活，你觉得有什么不一样？

After coming here, did life change much for you?

A: 最开始很不习惯，很想念家。毕竟第一次离家那么远，很久不回去，然后生活上也不是很习惯，在家想做什么就做什么，但在这边不是那么自由。

At the very beginning, I really couldn't get used to it. I missed my family badly. After all it's the first time I've stayed so far away from home for this long. And I did not really like the living style here: I could do whatever I want at home, but here there's not that much freedom.

Q: 你觉得地震后，生活有什么最大的不同？

So what's the biggest change in your life since the earthquake?

A: 最大的不同，身边少了很多人，以前谈心里话的人也去了，总觉得很不舒服

The biggest difference is that...a lot of people are missing from my life including the ones I could talk to about things...overall I feel...uncomfortable.

Q: 地震这么悲痛，你觉得学到了什么？

Though the earthquake has brought about much pain and loss, what do you think you've learned from it?

A: 这次地震，虽然给我们带来了那么多的痛苦，但是我觉得这次地震也让我感觉到了世界上存在的是爱，很多人帮助了我们，我们复课，他们帮助我们，我们在最困难的时候，特别是心理上受到很大打击的时候，还是志愿者和那些爱心人士来帮助我们，让我们走出了困难，走出了那段黑暗的世界

Despite all the suffering it's brought, I've learned that love makes the world go round. A lot of people helped us, helped us get back into school. They helped us when we were in the worst situation, especially when there were huge wounds in our hearts. The volunteers and kind-hearted people came and took us out of the dark world.

Q: 你觉得四川以外的人对地震这边的情况了解吗？

Do you think the people outside Sichuan know about the situation here?

A: 我想肯定很了解，要不然不会那么多五湖四海的人来帮助我们。

I think they must know this, or why would so many people come to help us?

Q: 你长大以后想做什么？

What do you want to be when you grow up?

A: 我最想的就是当演员。

I want to be an actress most of all.

Q: 什么样的演员？

What kind of actress?

A: 特别是喜剧演员。

Comedic actress.

Q: 那你对未来有什么梦想？

What are your dreams for the future?

A: 真的能成功的话，我想当个明星。因为家境不是很好，还有不是经过特殊的训练，我还是很想。如果高中实在考不起，我还要继续复读，争取考上，高中一定要考上。考上以后，我才能很好把握未来，这才上我迈出人生的第一步。

If possible, I want to be a movie star. Though my family is not wealthy, nor am I well trained, I still want to... If I can't get into high school, I will try another year, try to get into high school...I just have to. Only after I go to high school will I be able to steer my future. That is the first step for the rest of my life.

Q: 你觉得能实现吗?

Do you think your dreams can come true?

A: 很多人会觉得我是好高骛远,我觉得这是高瞻远瞩。我想只要通过我的努力,应该会实现的。

Lots of people might think I'm reaching for something beyond my grasp, but I believe it will come true as long as I keep trying.

Q: 你想这辈子就留在四川还是去别的地方?

Do you want to stay in Sichuan for the rest of your life or go somewhere else?

A: 我想让四川比以前更美好。但是我还是想去国外或者其他地方走一走,看一看,了解一下世界。

I want to help make Sichuan even better than it's been, but I still want to go abroad or somewhere else in order to see and understand the world.

Q: 你想去世界什么地方?

Where in the world would you like to go?

A: 我觉得世界各地我都想去看看,

I think I'd love to go and check out everywhere.

Q: 环游世界?

Travel around the world?

A: 对。

Yes.

Q: 爸爸妈妈是做什么的?

What do you parents do for living?

A: 我爸爸妈妈都是农民。在不是很忙的时候,现在那些地规划出来了,没地了,我也不知道他们以后该做什么,我们哪现在工厂也没了,以后只有,可能会去做一点生意。

My parents are both peasants. They do some small business when it's not the height of farming season. But now the field is ruined and apart from some layout recovery plan, I don't know what they'll do in the future. There's no factory in my hometown anymore, so they might do some small business.

Q: 最想念家里的什么?

What do you miss the most?

A: 还是亲人。因为只有亲人能够温暖我们，很多事情亲人才能够帮助我。
My family. Only family can provide a certain type of necessary warmth. There are many things that only my family can help me with.

Q: 那你给我们说说你们家的房子吧。
Tell us about your house.

A: 最开始是全部倒塌了，后来因为帐篷还没发下来，自己和周围的人帮忙打个棚，暂时住一下。一段时间后，又用木头搭建，可以住一下。因为在夏天在帐篷，确实太热了，都不知道该在外面还是里面。
It totally collapsed in the earthquake. We built a shed before the tents were distributed, lived in it for a while. Then we built a wooden temporary house where we could live for a while, because the tents are too hot to stay in during the summer---you don't even know where you should stay, outside or inside.

Q: 现在喃？
And now?

A: 现在房子拆掉了，因为要规划，以后我们也可以住那种抵御 8 级地震的房子。现在把房子拆了，我们还是住的用木头搭建的房子。
The house was taken down for the layout plan. Later, we are supposed to live in a house that can sustain an 8-magnitude earthquake. But for now we live in the wooden shack.

Q: 你们什么时候回水磨？
When will you go back to Shuimo?

A: 我们好像是 7 月还是 6 月就回去。
Seems like July or June.

Q: 下学期不来了吗？
Will you come back here next term?

A: 下学期不来了，下学期我们二中就快建好了，我们的房子拆了就是为了修建二中的。
No. The reconstruction of our No.2 Middle School is about to be completed, our house was taken down for it.

Q: 你从小喜欢唱歌吗？
Have you always liked to sing since you were a child?

A: 很喜欢，只不过不是很专业，就是听听。
Yes, always, but not professionally, and mostly listening.

Q: 那种类型的?

What type of music?

A: 抒情的, 我比较喜欢的就是音色非常好的, 民俗的也可以, 还有古代的那种古典的。特别是古筝。

Gentle music that expresses emotion. I like beautiful acoustic music. Folk songs are good too as well as old and classical music, especially the guzheng (21 string Chinese classical lap harp).

Q: 你一般在哪里听这些歌?

Where do you usually listen to music?

A: 一般在家里, 因为我不太喜欢出门, 经常在家里听。

Usually at home. I don't like going out a lot so I often listen to them at home.

Q: 今天那首歌在哪里听到的?

Where did you hear the song you sang today?

A: 我家买了一些歌碟。

Some CDs we bought.

Q: 你是哪个民族的?

Which minority are you?

A: 是回族的。

Hui Minority.

Q: 听你说你爸爸是藏族的?

I heard that your Dad is Tibetan?

A: 不是, 我爸爸是回族的, 我妈妈是藏族的。

No, my Dad's Hui, my Mom is Tibetan.

Q: 回族有什么特别的传统

Does the Hui minority have any special traditions?

A: 这个我就不太清楚, 毕竟我不是在这边, 不在那边。可能我爸爸和我奶奶知道, 因为我住的地方不一样

I don't know much about it, after all I don't live with my mom. My Dad and my grandma might know some; but where I live is a bit different.

Q: 回族有自己的语言吗?

Does the Hui minority have its own language?

A: 好像应该有吧。
I think so.

Q: 那你觉得音乐是你成长中比较重要的部分吗?
Do you think music is a very important part of your life?

A: 我觉得有两个，一个是音乐，一个是每次要毕业或者分开的时候，写同学录的时候不管写些什么，我都会把这两个写上去，我特别特别喜欢。
I think there are two things that are very important to me. One is music; the other is writing to my classmates when we are graduating or getting ready to be apart for a while... I like to write to them in the yearbook. I like it a lot.

Q: 家里人教你唱的第一首歌是什么还记得吗?
Do you remember the first song your family taught you?

A: 我以前跟着我奶奶生活，就是我们学校放的这个，是他们教我的第一个。
I used to live with my grandma; the song our school used (as a bell) is the first they taught me.

Q: 东方红吗?
Dong Fang Hong?

A: 恩，是的。他们唱的是比较老的歌，因为我从小不是跟父母一起长大的，是跟奶奶一起长大的。
Yes. The songs they sing are really old. I didn't live with my parents when I was little, I stayed with my grandma.

Q: 那小时候爸爸妈妈哄你睡觉的时候唱的歌喃?
Do you remember the lullabies your parents sang for you when you were a kid?

A: 恩，我不记得
Well...I don't quite remember.

Q: 那你奶奶喃?
How about your grandma's?

A: 就这个嘛。
This one.

Q: 唱一小段吧
Could you sing a little bit of it for us?

A: 那我唱一小段吧
Ok, a little bit.