

**BLOOD SEEDS BECOME POETRY**  
 THE LIFE OF NGUYEN CHI THIEN  
 BY JONATHAN DAVID HANH VU HILL  
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1960  
 [ON HIS WAY TO SUBSTITUTE.]

THIS IS A LIE... AMERICA DROPPED TWO BOMBS ON JAPAN. THAT'S WHY JAPAN SURRENDERED...

HAIPHONG HIGH SCHOOL

AND THEN

OH FREEDOM, I DREAM OF YOU NIGHT AND DAY

I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I LOVE MYSELF



I LEARNED THAT FROM THE COMMUNIST DEVILS WHO HAVE EXILED YOU AND ME - WE ARE HOMELESS.

MEANWHILE...

SAIGON

HO CHI MINH CITY

!

LATER...

THEY'RE LOOKING TO BUST ME AGAIN...

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN SURVIVE BEING IN PRISON ANOTHER TIME... I NEED TO WRITE ALL THESE POEMS DOWN... \*

\*ALL 300!

EMBASSY

It's worth a shot...

A MOMENT LATER...

HE'S CRAZY! I GOTTA TALK TO YOU!!

call the police

AND THEN...

I PROMISE I WILL GET YOUR MANUSCRIPT OUT OF VIETNAM...

can i stay here?

I'M SORRY.

gulp.

WELCOME TO THE HANOI HILTON

C'mon!

SHAVE!

!

= sigh =

THEY ARE MOST LIBERAL WITH ALL THE KILLINGS ALL THE WHILE SHOUTING THAT OUR MOST PRECIOUS CAPITAL IS MAN

TIME PASSED...

AND THEN...

COME WITH ME!

gulp.

DID YOU WRITE THIS?

DON'T PLAY DUMB!!! DID YOU WRITE THIS?!

I'M PUBLISHED!!!

YES!!!

I DID WRITE THAT!

AND SO...

I'M PUBLISHED!!!

?

...must... remember... poems...

AS FOR DYING OR GETTING OUT OF HERE, THAT'S GOD'S DECISION, NOT MINE

"... IN THE LONG STRUGGLE AGAINST THE PRISON I HAVE ONLY POETRY IN MY HEART AND TWO PAPER-THIN LUNGS TO FIGHT THE ENEMY, I CANNOT BE A COWARD AND TO WIN HIM OVER I MUST LIVE A THOUSAND AUTUMNS!"

AND THEN...

NGUYEN CHI THIEN WAS RELEASED FROM THE COMMUNIST PRISONS IN OCTOBER 1991. WITH THE HELP OF OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, AND AMERICAN AIR FORCE COLONEL NOBORU MASUOKA, HE WAS ABLE TO IMMIGRATE TO THE U.S. ON NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>, 1995. HE IS CURRENTLY WRITING AND SPEAKING AROUND THE WORLD TO BRING DEMOCRACY TO HIS HOMETOWN OF VIETNAM.

NOTES:

MOST OF THE INFORMATION FOR THIS COMIC CAME FROM THE ESSAY "THE JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND AUTUMNS OF NGUYEN CHI THIEN" BY JEAN LIBBY. ADDITIONAL STORY EDITING HELP FROM DAN DUFFY AND NGUYEN CHI THIEN HIMSELF.

I HOPE THIS COMIC PAYS HIM THE HONOR HE DESERVES...

-JONATHAN

THE END.

