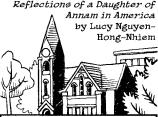


adapted by Jason Rainey from A Dragon Child: Reflections of a Daughter of



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSET at AMHERST - 1976

After settling in the U.S., I began my graduate studies. I wanted a teaching career, and earning my Ph.D seemed like a good step toward that goal.



It was a morning class, and students often arrived tired or late.



This was in contrast to my experience in Vietnam, where I was used to students arriving prior to class, and eager to learn from their teachers.

However, when I spoke

about this with the director

of my department...

IT MAY EVEN

MAKE IT HARDER TO

FIND WORK.

A DOCTORATE

WON'T NECESSARILY

HELP YOUR CAREER.



In America, teachers seemed be given less respect. Students took my class because it was a language requirement, not because they were motivated to learn the subject.

THIS WAS A SHOCK, SINCE I

BELIEVED A HIGHER

EDUCATION WAS ESSENTIAL

FOR TEACHING, EVEN MY

FATHER HAD WANTED ME TO

OBTAIN THE BEST EDUCATION

I POSSIBLY COULD.

SO EVEN THOUGH

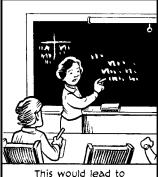
IT DIDN'T SEEM

IMMEDIATELY

PRACTICAL, I DECIDED TO KEEP PURSUING A Ph.D.



During this time, I also taught a course in French.



another surprise for me.

When I began my

dissertation, my advisor

suggested I focus on

Vietnamese Francophone

literature.

PHAM VAN KY WAS A Vietnamese novelist who had lived in Paris since 1939.



I wrote to him requesting information about his life and work. We began a correspondence, and I even had a chance to meet him.

His novels deal with the clash of Eastern and Western notions of self the Moi and Je.



**MOI** represents the innate Asian point of view, where one's identity is tied to a place in a community, whether family, institution or



While researching authors. I discovered PHAM VAN KY.

> In PHAM VAN KY's novels, characters that embody Je and Moi are set against each other. This also reflects the author's inner struggle - To reconcile these dualities within himself.



This is a struggle shared by many who have immigrated to the West. We strive to incorporate our innate selves and the culture of our new homeland.



MY GOALS, AND SOON BEGAN MY NEW CAREER.

