

FADE IN:

EXT. VILLAGE OF NANPING, CHINA - DAY - 1840

WIDE SHOT

A Rural Chinese village. Sounds of farmhands, animals, children playing.

YUNG WING (V.O)

I was born on the 17th of November, 1828, in the village of Nam Ping, about four miles southwest of the Portuguese Colony of Macao. I was one of a family of four children. A brother was the eldest, a sister came next, I was the third, and another brother was the fourth and the youngest of the group. I am the only survivor of them all.

WIDE SHOT of children chasing each other playfully. One of the children trips and scrapes his knee. The other children continue to play as the child is on the ground holding his knee. He begins to cry loudly.

MOTHER

(Calling from a distance)

Yung Wing, is everything alright?

YUNG WING'S MOTHER comes to her son and holds him. YUNG WING is still crying, but not as loud as earlier. YUNG WING'S MOTHER wipes away some of the blood off her son's knee. They both stand up, the child holding his mother's hand as they walk into their home.

YUNG WING'S FATHER is waiting inside the house. He has a disappointed look on his face. He motions to his wife to go to another room. He sits down on a chair as his son is standing in front of him.

YUNG WING'S FATHER

(Examining his son's knee)

This is merely a scrape. Look at all the other boy's legs. They are covered in bruises and cuts. Do you think they stop playing and cry every time they cut their knees? No, they stand up, wipe the dirt off of themselves and move on.

YUNG WING is looking down in the ground. YUNG WING'S FATHER lovingly lifts his chin up and smiles.

(CONTINUED)

YUNG WING'S FATHER (cont'd)

You're not like the other boys. I  
see great things in your future.  
But if you are going to let a  
scraped knee stop you every time,  
the world will move past you.  
Remember that son.

INT. YUNG WING'S PARENTS' ROOM - NIGHT

YUNG WING, at age 6, wakes up in the middle of the night  
going to the bathroom, he hears voice coming from his  
parents' room, he decides to go in to take a look.

YUNG WING'S MOTHER

(crying and sitting next to a desk)

Why can't we send him to a traditional school, like his  
elder brother? It is apparently good for him, since it is  
what other people do and I don't want him to be left behind.

YUNG WING'S FATHER

(Around in his room, suddenly stop  
and looking at YUNG WING'S MOTHER)

No, we are not sending him to a traditional school, did you  
see what is happening out there? There are more and more  
foreigner doing business here. We can send him to learn some  
English, if one day he can find a job in one of those  
businesses, he won't need to worry anymore.

YUNG WING'S MOTHER

(Nervous)

But I don't think we can afford the tuition fee, we barely  
feed ourselves and ...

YUNG WING'S FATHER

(Impatient)

Don't worry, I will figure it out. Let's go to bed, it is  
very late now.

YUNG WING'S FATHER turns off the light and goes to bed, then  
YUNG WING leaves the door.

FADE IN:

EXT. DOCK - DAY

YUNG WING holds his father's hand tightly and closely follows his father going through a large group of people, he seems very nervous and curious about everything he sees.

INT. DECK - Day

Right after they boarding, they go to the back deck of the boat, YUNG WING'S FATHER crouches down and talks to YUNG WING.

YUNG WING'S FATHER  
What's the matter? You nervous?

YUNG WING  
Papa, where are we going?

YUNG WING'S FATHER  
(Calm)

We are going to take the boat to Macao and you are going to the Morrison school.

YUNG WING  
(Anxious and worry)

Where is Mom, where is bother? Why aren't they coming with us?

YUNG WING'S FATHER  
Your brother is different from you, he is staying in the village and he is going to the traditional school.

YUNG WING  
(Having tears in his eyes and sad)

No! Why isn't him coming, I want him to be with me.

YUNG WING'S FATHER  
(Stately, and persuasively)

No, YUNG WING, listen to me, we can't afford two kids' tuition and we choose you, to go to Macao and learn some-thing useful, like English. One day you will understand, and you are going back to help other people.

When they are going back into the cabin, YUNG WING suddenly looks back at the place where he is familiar with, which is slowly running away from the boat, he looks nervous and he is about to cry,

FADE IN:

INT. MORRISON SCHOOL - DAY

YUNG WING is sitting in the middle of the classroom reading word in English out loud. YUNG WING is curious about some problems of his reading, a book about immigrant, then he runs and talk to REV. SAMUEL ROBBINS BROWN in his office, who is his instructor, he is writing a letter.

REV. SAMUEL ROBBINS BROWN  
(Brightly and interrogatively)

Seems like you need help, YUNG WING.

YUNG WING  
(Showing him the question)

Yes, I am, do you know what does immigrant means?

REV. SAMUEL ROBBINS BROWN  
(Calm and patient)

Immigrant means the kind of people who comes from other countries but they stay in the foreign place for an entire new life.

YUNG WING  
Are you an immigrant, Mr. Brown?

REV. SAMUEL ROBBINS BROWN  
(Distressed)

No, no, I am not an immigrant, I just came here to teach, I am still a citizen of the U.S., I am what they call a foreigner, F-O-R-E-R-I-G-N-E-R. Foreigner is just a label of a person who goes to a place where he not belong.

YUNG WING  
(Curious)

Am I a foreigner?

REV. SAMUEL ROBBINS BROWN  
(Sad)

Well, I don't know, YUNG WING, you have to find the answer by yourself.

YUNG WING  
So if I came to the U.S., I am a foreigner, right?

(CONTINUED)

REV. SAMUEL ROBBINS BROWN  
(In the tone of happy)

Yes, of cause you are!

YUNG WING  
(In the tone of curious)

What does it looks like, the U.S.?

INT. MR. BROWN'S office - same day

YUNG WING is talking to REV. SAMUEL ROBBINS BROWN in the MR. BROWN'S office, they are sitting.

REV. SAMUEL ROBBINS BROWN  
(Soft tone, diving in his memory of  
his life

in the U.S.)

It is beautiful, it is the only thin I can say. It is completely different from here: everything, the people, the food, the smell in the air, even the water tastes different. I hope one day you can see it by yourself, and I deeply believe that you will be amazed and fall in love with her beauty.

YUNG WING  
(Feel sad and dreaming about the  
U.S.)

I don't know, Mr. Brown, I wish I could but I don't think my father would let me travel that far from home. I do really hope one day I can visit you in the U.S.

REV. SAMUEL ROBBINS BROWN  
Yung, you are one of my favorite students here. To be honest, I am about to leave here in the next few months, the relationship between the Chinese government and British is getting worse and my country wants me back. I only can take three students with me, if you could come with me to the U.S., you can continue you education there, and even a better education environment, you can do what ever you want. Please take my words as advice, go talk to your father.

FADE IN:

EXT. HARBOR - DAY

YUNG WING and his PARENTS stop before the ship to the U.S., and there are lots of people walking around them. we see YUNG WING is looking at his PARENTS and his FATHER want to say something to him. YUNG'S MOTHERS' eyes is red and she is crying. Then we see YUNG'S FATHER put his hand on YUNG'S shoulder, talk to him with a heavy tone.

YUNG WING

(Grudge)

Papa, Mama, I think it is time to say goodbye, I will learn everything and I will not do anything that is shameful to the family and please take good care of yourselves.

YUNG WING'S MOTHER

(Sad but hiding it)

We will, Wing, you too, please write some letters to us. You must learn everything you need and come back to your mother land and help her. She definitely need your help. From now on, it is your era.

YUNG WING

(Having tears in his eyes)

I am sorry that I have to travel this far, Papa. Even though there is an old idiom that says "people would not travel while their parent alive", but it follows that "they must travel with a reason." I don't know what my reason is yet, but I think I will fine it when I am in the U.S., and I promise that I will study very hard.

YUNG WING'S FATHER

You will be fine, Wing, young people must go far away from their places of origin and aspire to a great career. This is all I want to say to you. Safe trip, my son.

YUNG WING

(Firmly and try not to tears out)

I will, Papa.

YUNG WING'S MOTHER

(Crying and feel very sad)

Wing, please take good care of yourself, remember to have three meals a day, and drink as much as water you can. You much remember to take a jacket when the weather is changed. You must write letter to us frequently...

(CONTINUED)

YUNG WING  
(Interrupts his mother's talk and  
almost cry)

Of cause I will, Mama, you too. Goodbye, Mama.

YUNG WING says goodbye to his PARENTS then go to the deck of the boat. We see YUNG WING is looking at the harbor which is slowly going away from him, it is reminding him the first time he take the boat to Macao. We see those two image that collaping together and become a similar image.

EXT. SHIP "HUNTRESS" - NIGHT -1847-

A 16 years, Yung Wing dressed in traditional Chinese cloth, He is surrounded by boxes of tea.

YUNG WING (V.O)  
It has always been a mystery to me  
why my parents should take it into  
their heads to put me into a  
foreign school, instead of a  
regular orthodox Confucian school,  
where my brother much older than  
myself was placed.

CU OF DIARY

He is writing in his diary in traditional Chinese. The night was pitch dark, and a strong wind was howling and whistling.

YUNG WING (V.O) (cont'd)  
I can only account for the  
departure thus taken on the theory  
that as foreign intercourse with  
China was just beginning to grow,  
my parents, anticipating that it  
might soon assume the proportions  
of a tidal wave, thought it worth  
while to take time by the forelock  
and put one of their sons to  
learning English that he might  
become one of the advanced  
interpreters and have a more  
advantageous position from which to  
make his way into the business and  
diplomatic world.

DISSOLVE:

INT. BROWN'S PARSONAGE, NEW HAVEN - DAY -1848

WIDE SHOT.

A quiet morning in the New England college town of New Haven, Connecticut.

CRANE UP from the street into YUNG WING'S room.

LONG SHOT OF YUNG WING'S ROOM.

CU OF YUNG WING'S DESK

All his correspondence is in English, as well as his books. Yung Wing, a 17 year old. He is dressed in a traditional American clothing (pijamas)

Yung Wing wakes up and goes downstairs. Rev. Shubael Bartlett's wife was humming. Yung Wing quietly sits down on the small dining table. Yung Wing begins to eat breakfast.

MRS. BARTLETT

(o.s.)

Good mornin' sweetheart. Are you ready for preparatory school?

YUNG WING

Yes, I am.

Rev. Shubael Bartlett came to the dining table with the Bible on hand. He sits across of Yung Wing.

A TWO MEDIUM SHOTS: MRS.BARRETT & SHUBAEL BARLETT

YUNG WING (V.O)

The contrast between Rev. Bartlett and his wife was peculiarly amazing. While Mrs. Barlett was nice and friendly, Rev. Bartlett was particularly uptight.

REV. SHUBAEL BARTLETT

(emotionless)

Good Morning. Rev. Shubael Bartlett closed his eyes and began to pray.

REV. SHUBAEL BARTLETT (cont'd)

God bless the food that we are about to eat. Amen. Yung Wing was chewing.

(CONTINUED)



YUNG WING

Amen. Mrs. Bartlett giggled with Yung Wing's imprudence, but Rev. Shubael Bartlett didn't even bat an eyelid.

INT. CLASSROOM, MONSON PREPARATORY SCHOOL -DAY

American young boys were entering into a classroom, and they seated. There were only three Chinese students who had come with Yung Wing to America.

Rev. Charles Hammond entered the classroom.

REV. CHARLES HAMMOND

(Authoritarian)

I would like to clarify something. I am neither interested into converting you into intelligent parrots nor, walking encyclopedias. I aim to build character in you, my pupils.

JUMP:

EXT. YALE COLLEGE - DAY- 1849

WIDE SHOT OF YALE'S GARDEN

Yung Wing was walking around campus. A camera is following Yung Wing along campus. Yung Wing enters into a the Dean's office.

DEAN

(Politely)

I was waiting for you, Mr. Wing, Take a seat.

YUNG WING'S FATHER

(Trying to show confidence)

Thank you sir, I wanted to apply for a scholarship. As you have seen my grades are good.

DEAN

(nervous)

I am sorry Mr. Wing, but I cannot give you a scholarship. However, should contact this people

The Dean takes a card from his left drawer, and hands it to Yung Wing DEAN (cont'd) (smiling) They are more than welcome to help you with the scholarship. Yung Wing smiles back and thanks the Dean for his help.

(CONTINUED)

YUNG WING (V.O)

I must get this scholarship. I got in, the hardest part is over. I must persuade these trustees to pay for my education.

CUT:

INT. BROWN'S PARSONAGE, NEW HAVEN - MORNING

Yung Wing (around 19 years old) and two trustees (old white men) are sitting on the dining table discussing Yung Wing's financial aid.

TRUSTEE 1

After this meeting, we would approve your financial aid.

TRUSTEE 2

We would be glad to have you avail of the fund, as long as you sign a pledge. The pledge ensures us that you should go back to China as a missionary.

Yung Wing finds courage to speak his mind

YUNG WING

(ashamed)

Although your offer is generous I have to decline it.

Trustee 1 and Trustee 2 look at each other stunned.

CLOSE UP OF YUNG WING

YUNG WING (CONT'D)

It would handicap and circumscribe my usefulness. I want the utmost freedom of action to avail myself of every opportunity to do the greatest good in China. If necessary, I might be obliged to create new conditions, if I found old ones are not favorable to any plan I might have for promoting her highest welfare.

OVER THE SHOULDER SHOT OF TRUSTEES

In the second place, the calling of a missionary is not the only sphere in life where one can do the most good in China or elsewhere. In such

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

YUNG WING (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
 a vast empire, there can be hardly  
 any limit put upon one's ambition  
 to do good, if one is possessed of  
 the Christ-spirit; on the other  
 hand, if one has not such a spirit,  
 no pledge in the world could melt  
 his ice-bound soul.

MEDIUM SHOT YUNG WING

In the third place, a pledge of  
 that character would prevent me  
 from taking advantage of any  
 circumstance or event that might  
 arise in the life of a nation like  
 China, to do her a great service.

CU OF YUNG WING

For these reasons, I must decline  
 to give the pledge and at the same  
 time decline to accept your kind  
 offer to help me. I thank you,  
 gentlemen, very much, for your good  
 wishes.

DISSOLVE:

INT. CLASSROOM, YALE COLLEGE - DAY- 1850

Yung Wing is in a big hall, full of white upper-class male  
 students, waiting for the results of the admission test. A  
 professor posted the results on a cork board.

CU OF A HAPPY YUNG WING  
 Implying that he was admitted

YUNG WING (V.O)  
 How I got in, I do not know, as I  
 had had only fifteen months of  
 Latin and twelve months of Greek,  
 and ten months of mathematics. My  
 preparation had been interrupted  
 because the academy had been broken  
 up by the Palmer & New London R.R.  
 that was being built close by.

INT. CLASSROOM, YALE COLLEGE - DAY

MONTAGE SEQUENCE - ALONG WITH NON-DIEGETIC SOUND, MUSIC.

Yung wing struggling in multiple classes. In the first  
 scenes, Yung Wing is trying to write a scholar paper. Then,  
 he gets his paper back in which he's got a bad grade. He is

(CONTINUED)

frustrated, but he does give up on the task of re-writing the paper. He goes to the library and began to read grammar books. He spends hours in the library writing and throwing drafts into the garbage. In the last scene, a professor gives him an essay back.

SHOT OF YUNG WING'S ESSAY, SHOWING A GOOD GRADE

INT. HIS BEDROOM, BROWN'S PARSONAGE - NIGHT

HIGH CAMERA ANGLE

Yung Wing is lying on his bed looking at the roof. Clearly depressed Yung Wing looking at the camera

YUNG WING

I often wished I had never been educated, as education had unmistakably enlarged my mental and moral horizon, and revealed to me responsibilities which the sealed eye of ignorance can never see, and sufferings and wrongs of humanity

YUNG WING (cont'd) to which an uncultivated and callous nature can never be made sensitive. The more one knows, the more he suffers and is consequently less happy; the less one knows, the less he suffers and hence is happier.

BLACK SCREEN

EXT. YALE COLLEGE - DAY-1854

WIDE SHOT

Hundred of male white students are dressed with blue caps and gowns. They were sitted on the campus garden. Yung Wing was among them, he stood out among them. The Dean was calling all the students up by alphabetical order. two names were called before Yung Wing. After the Dean called Yung Wing. A mobile frame follows Yung Wing's path to the stage to receive the diploma. Yung Wing looks at the camera

YUNG WING (V.O)

(smiling)

I will help the rising generation of China to enjoy the same educational advantages that I had enjoyed. Through that, China might be regenerated. China must become enlightened and powerful, thanks to western education.

MONTAGE- VARIOUS

(CONTINUED)

A) EXT. NEW YORK HARBOR - DAY - Yung Wing departs America on the sailing ship Eureka. It is a miserable day, with a gloomy sky, and choppy seas.

B) EXT. DECK OF THE EUREKA - MORNING - A Chinese crew boards the ship off the coast of Hong Kong.

CHINESE CAPTAIN  
(Chinese)

CAPTAIN  
How do ye expect me to make sense  
of your babbling? Don't any of your  
crew know the Queen's English?

FIRST MATE  
Captain, what about Master Yung? He  
is from China.

CAPTAIN  
Fine. Bring him here!

The First mate goes to get Yung Wing.

CAPTAIN (cont'd)  
Yung, translate this Cathay speech  
for me.

YUNG WING  
Um...of course.  
(in Chinese)  
Greetings...

The CHINESE CAPTAIN speaks.

YUNG WING (cont'd)  
....I'm sorry?

CHINESE CAPTAIN  
(subtitled Chinese)  
...boat...Hong Kong...papers...???

YUNG WING  
Umm....

The CAPTAIN of the Eureka laughs. The CHINESE CAPTAIN is exasperated. YUNG WING stalks away embarrassed.

C) INT./EXT. MISSIONARY' SCHOOL, CANTON- 1856- AFTERNOON -  
Yung is relearning how to speak and write Chinese.

(CONTINUED)

MISSEONARY  
 (Mandarin)  
 "Season"

YUNG WING  
 (Mandarin)  
 "Season"

Commotion outside. YUNG WING goes to the window. Down below, Imperial troops and provincial rebels battle in the street. It is a bloodbath for both sides. YUNG WING looks on disgusted.

YUNG WING (V.O)  
 Seeing the blood-soaked streets filled with the corpses of my countrymen made me sick to my stomach. If we continued to fight amongst ourselves, the march of civilization would come to us not by own hands, but in those of a Western flag. The sight strengthened my resolve to use my western education to bring my nation into the modern age.

D) INT. BRITISH ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, HONG KONG -1857- DAY.  
 YUNG is translating a letter from English to Chinese.

YUNG WING (V.O) (cont'd)  
 Unfortunately, my fellow countrymen did not yet see my education as a boon, as I discovered while working at an English attorney's office in Hong Kong.

YUNG looks up. His CANTONESE COWORKERS have surrounded his desk.

TRANSLATOR 1  
 Yung, we've been talking--

TRANSLATOR 2  
 Agreeing.

TRANSLATOR 1  
 Agreeing...that it would be best if you found work somewhere else.

TRANSLATOR 3  
 Outside of Hong Kong.

The group murmurs with approval.

(CONTINUED)

YUNG WING  
Why? What I did I do?

TRANSLATOR 2  
You learned English.

TRANSLATOR 3  
You can actually speak it.

TRANSLATOR 1  
Our translation work requires us to  
use a dictionary.

TRANSLATOR 3  
It slows us down.

TRANSLATOR 2  
You work too fast.

TRANSLATOR 1  
Ultimately, your proficiency and  
efficiency makes the rest of us  
look bad.

Mummers of approval.

YUNG WING  
That's absurd!

TRANSLATOR 3  
Is this going to be a problem?

TRANSLATOR 1  
Don't make this any more difficult  
than it has to be, Yung.

Mummers of approval. YUNG WING looks at the mob around his  
desk. He sighs. YUNG starts packing his things.

YUNG WING (V.O)  
I moved out of Hong Kong to try and  
seek my fortune on the mainland.  
But good fortune remained out of my  
grasp.

E) INT. IMPERIAL CUSTOMS, SHANGHAI - DAY Yung leaves his  
boring job for the day. As he leaves, local authorities rush  
in to arrest the employees who have been taking money on the  
side.

YUNG WING (V.O) (cont'd)  
I found work at a customs house in  
Shanghai, but I decide to leave  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

YUNG WING (V.O) (cont'd)  
after I discovered that some of the  
clerks had started taking money on  
the side.

F) INT. SHIPPING CO. OFFICE, SHANGHAI - Yung is offered a  
menial job in Nagasaki, Japan. He is too proud to take it.

YUNG WING (V.O) (cont'd)  
I was offered a job by another  
shipping in Nagasaki, Japan.  
However, this position would make  
me the chief servant among  
servants. Not a future, I felt, fit  
for a Yale Man, or one of my  
ambitions.

G) EXT. TEA BARGE, RIVER -DAY- Yung trades tea along a rainy  
river. He coughs.

YUNG WING (V.O) (cont'd)  
My final attempt in business was  
manager of a tea barge. This proved  
hazardous to my health.

H) INT. HOSPITAL, KEW KEANG, NIGHT- Yung lies in bed, sick,  
and fed up. He resolves to leave China and realize his dream  
of reforming and modernizing education in China.

YUNG WING (V.O) (cont'd)  
As a lay recovering from sickness  
for two months, I realized that  
seeking my fortune was not proving  
the best path for me. I thought  
back to my original dream I had  
thought up in college: a school in  
America, for Chinese students. A  
generation of the finest young  
minds in China would study abroad,  
receiving both a Chinese and  
Western education. With this unique  
knowledge and experience, they  
return home to China and bring  
their nation into the modern age.  
It would be done a great risk to my  
future and fortune, by this was  
insignificant compared to good I  
could do for my homeland.



EXT. YALE UNIVERSITY GRADUATION CEREMONY - DAY - 1903

C.U.

YUNG WING is sitting in the audience. Diegetic sound of applause from the audience.

WIDE SHOT

PRESIDENT OF YALE is announcing names alphabetically and handing them degrees.

YUNG WING(V.O.)

All these years later, the ceremony never changed. I walked where these young men and women are walking. Each one of them had a different story.

C.U. on YUNG WING

YUNG WING (V.O.)(CONT.)

My story? Some may retell it, some will forget it, but I did all of this for a reason. My original home had become foreign to me. I hadn't forgotten where I had come from, I simply grew. In that growth, I can now reap the rewards of my sacrifice.

PRESIDENT OF YALE

(Introducing the next graduate)

Morrison Brown Yung

YUNG WING stands up and applauds.

MEDIUM SHOT OF THE GRADUATION STAGE

MORRISON BROWN YUNG, YUNG WING's son walks up to the president, shakes his hand and accepts his degree. This is crosscut by identical shots of YUNG WING accepting the degree himself years ago.