

Belated Homecoming to the Mountains

An Interview with Jian-xiang Gao, a Ranger in Shei-Pa National Park

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健翔雖是原住民,但10歲之後就到平地生活, 沒有機會能真正好好瞭解山林。孩提時的他, 常常眺望著雪山藹藹的山頭;每逢3、4月間,總可以 看見雪山峰壁上點綴著繽紛色彩;問外公那是什麼, 外公說那是山杜鵑。從此,山的美麗與神秘,就此停 留在高健翔的心中。 Though an aborigine in Taiwan, Jian-xiang Gao had moved to the city since he was 10. He never got the chance to know about the mountains and forests he once lived in, except for some childhood memories of the snow-capped peaks of Syue Mountain and the colorful blossoms of rhododendrons his grandfather taught him to identify. That's when the beauty and mystery of mountains made an imprint on Gao's mind.

# 遲來的山中孩子

成年後,高健翔成了職業軍人,並在軍中學習氣象方面的知識,一些在電視台擔任資深氣象分析的播報員,如任立渝、俞川心等等,都是他尊敬的老師。退伍之後,他先是在磁磚公司任職,當時的收入福利其實都算很不錯,但在心裡深處,高健翔還是想到山裡過生活,於是他便請調至國民黨梨山黨部任職。爾後因緣際會,高健翔有緣成為了雪霸國家公園的巡山員,當時,雪霸國家公園方成立3年。

這一份與山的「相識」,雖遲了40年,但隱藏在原住民血液裡那份與山特有的靈犀,還是很快就在高健翔身上甦醒。

#### 做好登山計畫 失落不再

對高健翔而言,在濃密的森林裡面,GPS、電腦這種先進設備都只是參考用的,以他過去所累積那豐富的巡山、救災經驗,雪山的每個角落他都很熟悉,自然地他就能知道在山裡什麼能做、哪個方向是正確的、哪邊的收訊不佳……這些枝末細節在高健翔的心中都清清楚楚。有一次,幾個女登山客在山裡迷

## **Belated Destiny Found**

Early in his adulthood, Gao started his military career, and studied meteorology in the navy, where he was mentored by some of the most distinguished meteorologists in the country. After his retirement from the military, he worked for a tile company with a great salary and welfares. But out of his longing for a life in the mountains, he found a position in the Kuomintang(KMT)'s Lishan party headquarters, and later became a ranger in Shei-Pa National Park (SPNP), which only entered its third year at the time.

This "homecoming" came 40 years late, but the aboriginal instincts about mountains embedded in his blood were soon awakened.

## Plan Ahead, Never Go Astray

For Gao, deep in the mountains, all the high-tech gadgets like GPS or computers are only supplements to his rich knowledge and experiences accumulated through each and every patrol and rescue mission. Syue Mountain area is just like his own back yard that he couldn't be more familiar with. He once helped some female hikers lost in the mountains find their way out by guiding them over the phone with only some vague description on the

在皚皚的白雪中始終不能找到男孩的身影,是高健翔心中永遠的遺憾 / 高健翔提供 Gao feels sorry for failing to find the missing boy in pure whit snow. /Photo provided by Jian-xiang Gao





2010年3月的「七卡山莊淨山活動」,清出高達608公斤的垃圾,人們對山林保育的維護,究竟做到了幾分?/雪霸國家公園管理處提供

In a campaign to clean up Cika Cabin in March 2010, 608 kg of garbage were picked up. This number tells a lot about how well we do in protecting the environment. /Photo provided by SPNP Headquarters.

了路,高健翔接到求助電話後,先是請她們描述周遭環境,接著憑自己熟練的記憶,在電話的另一端步步指引,成功地讓她們順利從迷失的方向中脫困;而當NCC(國家通訊傳播委員會)來雪霸國家公園進行通訊覆蓋率的調查、以縮短救援定位時間之時,也在他的指路下完成工作。

然而,山區範圍廣大,並非每次的救災救難工作都能如此順利。「那些下落不明的山友,至今我還記得他們的名字,甚至其中一位男孩的面孔,我也永遠無法忘記。」高健翔談起那些無法達成的救援行動,心中仍感悲痛:「在那個男孩失蹤的前一晚上,我還在雪山369山莊登山口看到他,但之後就怎麼找也找不到了。我們連續找了十幾二十天,中間幾乎沒有休息,腦中不斷想著有沒有錯過什麼交叉點?有沒有什麼地方還沒去找?」令人遺憾的是,男孩的蹤影終究消失在白茫的山線,及急切尋找他的爸媽眼淚中。

一直到現在,高健翔都會和這些失蹤山友的家屬保持聯繫,而在電話那頭,他們猶仍痴心追問,還有沒有他們的消息?高健翔語帶感傷的同時,也不忘正色提醒:其實失蹤的狀況會發生,大多是因為落單。這一方面是缺乏警覺,二方面也是押隊的沒有顧好隊伍。而在森林之中,只要偏差了一、二十公尺,整個環境看來就會有很大的不同,此時人就會緊張,一緊張更可能失去判斷力。因此,再怎麼熟悉路徑的登山客,一定要評估自身體力,也要注意天氣狀態,更重要的是一定要團體行動!高健翔也特別叮嚀山友們,當計畫入山行程之時,一定要做好入山登記,也一定要按照既定的路徑走,不要因為貪快就想走捷徑。唯有如此,方能確保整趟入山行程的順暢,而在危機發生時,相關單位也才能迅速確認出事地點,減少遺憾的發生。

#### 保育山林 人退心不退

國家公園巡山員的重要任務,不只是負責救難。高 健翔指出,雪霸國家公園成立後的第一個問題,其實 是垃圾。當時台灣人的環保意識尚未健全,山林裡面 遍布了垃圾、食品空罐、排遺之後的衛生紙……這些 surroundings provided by the hikers. He also made it easier, through his guidance on directions, for the National Communications Commission (NCC) to finish their investigation on the communications coverage for shortening the positioning time in rescue works.

But Gao is not always that almighty in every rescue mission given the broad range of the mountains. "Till today, I still remember the names of those missing but never found, and I'll never forget the face of a boy among them," Gao grieved over a lost life in a failed mission. "I saw the boy at 369 Cabin the night before he went missing, but I just couldn't find him anymore since then, not even when we spent almost 20 days with little rest and went through every intersection or corner we could think of." Unfortunately, the boy was still gone forever in the wintery mountain as well as in the tearful eyes of his parents.

Gao has still been in contact with the family of some of the missing hikers. They would still ask him on the phone with a glimmer of hope whether there's any news about their loved ones. With a sad but solemn tone, Gao cites "being left behind alone" as the most common reason for missing incidents. It happens due to a lack of vigilance of those getting lost and the negligence of the leaders of their teams. In the forest, Gao reminds, places just 10 or 20 meters apart would look very different, which would make stray hikers turn nervous and lose their judgment. So all hikers, however experienced, must take into account their physical strength and weather conditions, act in groups, register before entry, stick to the originally planned routes, and never take shortcuts. These precautions will ensure hikers' safety or facilitate the rescue work to prevent tragedies from happening.

#### **Lifelong Devotion to Conservation**

The major responsibilities of a national park ranger include not just rescuing hikers but also cleaning up the mountains, the first challenge faced by SPNP Headquarters since its founding. Back then when the Taiwanese were not well educated about environmental protection, all kinds of trash had been littered in the mountains, and it took nearly 5 years for the park rangers

都需要巡山員們——撿拾,並且背負下山,巡山員們 花了將近5年的時間、搬了超過幾噸的垃圾,才將園 區環境大致恢復成原本的樣貌<sup>1</sup>。

也因此,高健翔對於環保的把關相當重視,會嚴格 檢查登山客的垃圾是否有將垃圾帶出山林,若帶出的 垃圾不符合應有的量時,亦會確切查明。這樣的強力 執行當然難免會有衝突的產生,但「愛護山林,絕不 退讓」就是高健翔對山林保育的堅持的與決心。

除了救難與淨山,巡山員也要定期巡山、保育巡 邏、步道設施修繕維護、山野技能、雪地救援訓練、 溯溪救助演練、進修救災技能、管理登山客的出入山 並確保山屋的燈、水跟廁所運作如常以便登山客使 用,有時還要維持秩序(登山客有時會冒名或是互搶 床位),以及照顧山林裡的保育動物……巡山員繁雜 又吃重的工作,外人難以想像,如高健翔所說,巡山 員就像是國家公園的靈魂,或許透明地讓人無法直接 感受到其鮮明的存在,卻實實在在地為國家公園不可 或缺的重要支柱之一。

1. 據統計,每逢週末或長假結束後,山友們所帶下集中在雪霸登山口的垃圾,其數量有將近兩百多包,然而這些是否為全部的垃圾量?或是仍有部分丟棄於山林中? 2010年3月,雪霸國家公園結合了志工團隊、警察與管理處的工作人員共61名,舉辦「七卡山莊淨山活動」,僅一天的時間,就從七卡山莊清出高達608公斤的垃圾。這樣的統計結果值得大家省思,對於山林保育的維護,自己究竟做到了幾分?

to pick up and remove dozens of tons of garbage and recover what the park originally looked like.

Therefore, Gao has been strict about maintaining a clean environment in the park. He'd always pay attention to whether hikers and tourists bring their garbage with them when leaving, and question them when the amount of trash is unreasonably little. His firm attitude leads to arguments sometimes but reflects his determination to protect and preserve the mountains and forests.

As a park ranger, Gao also needs to do regular patrols and conservation patrols, maintain the trail facilities, train for survival skills in the wild and rescue techniques in the snow or in the river, manage the entries and exits of hikers, make sure the mountain cabins are in working condition, and take care of protected wildlife in the mountains. It's such a demanding job that the heavy workload is beyond imagination. But the park rangers are like the guardian angels of the national parks. Although their existence is barely felt by people, but their contributions are truly indispensible to the national parks.

1.Statistics show that at the end of each weekend or long holidays in SPNP, the amount of trash brought out by hikers themselves is nearly 200 bags. But are these include all the garbage hikers have produced? In March 2010, in a campaign to clean up Cika Cabin, 61 volunteers, policemen, and staff members of SPNP Headquarters picked up a staggering 608 kg of garbage in just one day. This number tells a lot about how well we do in protecting the environment.







已將心完全奉獻給山林的高健翔,幾乎已將山林當成生命中不可分割的一部份,所接受的待遇如何,他已無心去計較。然而,一個巡山員的養成,非3、5年以上的山林經驗、並由資深巡山員從旁引領協助,根本不足以成其功;而由於薪資以及人員晉用的福利不足,很難吸引新血加入,長久下去,勢必形成國家公園的危機。在確定了巡山員對於國家公園的實際價值後,高健翔語重心長地指出,這也許是日後國家公園在培養人才的條件規劃上值得努力的方向。

「即使從國家公園退休後,我應該還是會在這裡做 義解與高山志工帶隊的服務,也想帶附近的原住民社 區,請他們來認識國家公園。」人退心不退的高健翔, 對山林的熱愛與付出遠超過那份遲了40年的相識, 對他來說,這不僅是他永遠的志業,也是永遠不退守 的保育領地。 Gao has now been fully devoted to the mountains and forests, an integral part of his life, without caring about how he is paid. However, in fact, it takes 3 to 5 or more years of field experience and the guidance of senior rangers to train a qualified ranger, while the salary and welfares of a park ranger have been barely satisfactory. All these have made the job as a ranger an unattractive one, which will eventually pose a threat to national parks. By pointing out the value and importance of park rangers, Gao hopes more efforts can be made to improve the terms of employment and training of park rangers.

"Even after I retire from the park someday, I'll still stay as a volunteer for interpretation and high-mountain guide services. I'd also like to lead more aborigines nearby to know about the national park." Gao's passion and commitment to the mountains have well compensated for his belated engagement in conservation by 40 years. For him, it's a lifelong career to protect the land that he'd love forever.

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- 1. 與山林磋跎了近 40 年的緣份,相遇之後,讓高健翔更懂得珍惜 Though the connection between Gao and mountains has taken 40 years, he would treasure it forever. /Photo provided by Jian-xiang Gao
- 2. 和伙伴們橫跨馬達拉溪,探勘新的步道 Gao and his partners crossed Madala Creek, exploring new trails together. /Photo provided by Jian-xiang Gao
- 3. 救援之後,傷者搭上了海鷗直昇機;辛苦的巡山員們要一步步的走下山/圖1-3 由高健翔提供 After being rescued, the wounded was carried by helicoper, while the rangers had to go downhill by foot. / Photo provided by Jian-xiang Gao

## 簡介 Profile

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雪霸國家公園巡山員,出身中横梨山部落的泰雅族原住民。海軍軍官學校畢業,擔任過氣 象觀測,也在磁磚 公司工作過。近四十歲時決心放下平地的工作,回歸山林之間。

他的「 轄區 」包括了武陵地區、雪山山脈、大小劍山線、志佳陽山線、聖稜線、O 型聖稜線等等。因為工作需求及個人愛好,攻頂雪山已超過兩百餘次。

Currently a ranger in Shei-Pa National Park, Gao is an Atayal aborigine comes from Lishan tribes. After graduated from Naval Academy, he has worked as a weather forecaster and has worked for a tile company. He quitted the job in the cities when he was near forty, and went straight to the mountains. The area he is familiar with includes Wuling mountains, Syue Mountain Range, Dajian, Xiaojian Mountain, Holy ridgeline, etc. Due to his work demands and his personal interests, he has climbed to the top of Syue Mountain more than two hundred times.

