

= Shi Jianqiao =

Shi Jianqiao (simplified Chinese : 史建桥 ; traditional Chinese : 史建橋 ; pinyin : Shǐ Jiànqiáo ; Wade ? Giles : Shih Chien @-@ ch?iao , 1905 or 1906 ? August 27 , 1979) was the daughter of the Chinese military officer Shi Congbin , whose killing she avenged by assassinating the former warlord Sun Chuanfang . The revenge killing and the legal proceedings that followed were highly publicized at the time and incited public debates over the concepts of filial piety and the rule of law .

= = Names = =

Shi Jianqiao 's given name was Shi Gulan , (simplified Chinese : 史谷兰 ; traditional Chinese : 史谷蘭 ; pinyin : Shǐ Gǔlán ; Wade ? Giles : Shih Ku @-@ lan ; literally : " Valley Orchid ") . She adopted the name Shi Jianqiao around the time she was planning to assassinate Sun Chuanfang to avenge her father 's killing . The characters of her adopted name mean " sword " and " to raise " alluding to her planned role as an avenging assassin .

= = Background = =

Shi Jianqiao was born in Tongcheng City , Anhui Province , in the small village of Shazigang . While her grandfather had still been a farmer and tofu seller , her father and one of her uncles rose to become decorated soldiers , which led to an increase in the family 's social status . She grew up in Jinan , Shandong Province and had her feet bound as a young girl . By the year he was killed (1925) , her father had been promoted to director of military affairs in Shandong Province and served as brigade commander under the local warlord Zhang Zongchang . Zhang Zongchang and hence Shi Congbin were aligned with the Fengtian clique , one of the two main competing warlord factions at the time . By some accounts , Shi Jianqiao graduated from Tianjin Normal College (Chinese : 天津法政專門學校 ; pinyin : Tiānjīn Fǎzhèng Xuéxiào) .

In October 1925 , during the second war between the Zhili and Fengtian warlord cliques , her father Shi Congbin was leading a brigade of mercenary soldiers in an attempt to capture Guzhen , Shandong . However , he found himself surrounded by troops of the Zhili warlord Sun Chuanfang who had been leading a surprise counterattack against the advance of the Fengtian troops . The next day , Sun had Shi decapitated and his severed head displayed in public at the train station of Bengbu , Anhui . Less than two years later , in early 1927 , Sun Chuanfang was deposed by the Northern Expedition , a military campaign by the Kuomintang that was targeted at ending the rule of the local warlords . He retired from his military career and founded the Tianjin Qingxiu lay @-@ Buddhist society (Chinese : 天津清修居士會 ; pinyin : Tiānjīn Qīngxiū Jūshìhuì) together with his former fellow warlord Jin Yunpeng .

= = Revenge = =

About 10 years after the death of her father , Shi Jianqiao tracked down Sun Chuanfang in Tianjin . Shortly after 3pm on November 13 , 1935 , she approached him from behind while he was leading a sutra @-@ recitation session at his lay @-@ Buddhist society on Nanma Road . She then killed the kneeling former warlord by shooting him three times with her Browning pistol . After the assassination , she stayed at the crime scene to explain her deed and distribute mimeographed pamphlets to bystanders . Her case drew a significant amount of public and media attention . After a lengthy legal process with two appeals that ultimately reached the Supreme Court in Nanjing and pitted public sentiment against the rule of law , she was finally given a state pardon by the Nationalist government on October 14 , 1936 . The assassination of Sun Chuanfang was ethically justified as an act of filial piety and turned into a political symbol of the legitimate vengeance against the Japanese invaders .

= = Later life and death = =

In 1949 , Shi Jianqiao was elected as vice @-@ chair of the Women 's Federation of Suzhou . In 1957 , she was appointed to the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Chinese Communist Party .

Shi Jianqiao died in 1979 , shortly after surgery for advanced colorectal cancer . Her ashes were buried in the West Tianling Cemetery (Chinese : ????? ; pinyin : Xī Tiānlíng Gōngmù) in Suzhou City .