

Analysis of the Character Mr. Hai in "The Village" by Kim Lân

Kim Lân's "The Village" is one of the finest works depicting the lives of rural farmers during the period of resistance against the French colonial rule. With his exceptional writing skills and unique perspective, the author has crafted the character of Mr. Hai with all the noble qualities of a simple, honest person who deeply loves his homeland and country, worthy of admiration.

Mr. Hai is introduced in a special context. Under the orders of the Committee, he and his family must leave their beloved Chợ Dầu village to seek refuge elsewhere. Mr. Hai cherishes his village deeply, always reminiscing about the memories of "working together with his comrades." The descriptions of his emotions are placed one after another: "Oh, how happy those times were," "He felt like a young man again," "His heart swelled with excitement," "Oh! Mr. Hai misses the village, misses it dearly." Even in these short passages, readers can feel the character's love and longing for the place where he toiled and sowed.

In exile, Mr. Hai constantly seeks news from his village. Whenever he hears that the enemy has been captured or defeated, he cannot contain his joy. This demonstrates that he is a very down-to-earth, honest farmer who deeply loves his village and country, deserving of respect.

With news of Chợ Dầu village siding with the enemy, Mr. Hai's sense of pride and seriousness, as well as his unwavering dedication to his homeland, shine through. Kim Lân skillfully weaves together actions, emotions, and states of mind to convey the character's feelings. When he first hears the distressing news, Mr. Hai exhibits various attitudes: "pretending to move away," "his throat choked up, his face numb," "as if he couldn't breathe," "he walked with his head down," "feeling sorry, tears welled up." Mr. Hai loves his village so much, but now he must confront the label of "Vietnamese traitor." Even his own children at home are considered "children of the enemy." This pains him and fills him with shame, pitying his family and himself. His embarrassment prevents him from going anywhere, and he lingers at home, confiding in his young child. Through their conversation, readers gain a clearer understanding of Mr. Hai's determination and loyalty to the Party and the state. He abandons the idea of returning to the village and resolves to stand wholeheartedly with the revolution: "I truly love the village. But if the village follows the West, it's lost. We must retaliate." This is a precious detail, evidence of the character's noble qualities and those of the farmers of the past.

When news of Chợ Dầu village correcting its allegiance comes, Mr. Hai's love for the village and his loyalty to the revolution finally come together. The correction of the news brings Mr. Hai back to life. He joyfully buys gifts and pastries for his children, even knocking on doors to proudly announce, "The Westerners burned my house," "they burned it to the ground." This proves that the people of his village did not side with the

enemy. The villagers of Chợ Dầu remain steadfastly loyal to the revolution and hold a deep affection for Uncle Ho. This serves as a vindication, a remedy that uplifts the spirit of the people. Mr. Hai once again becomes a carefree, simple farmer and proudly boasts about the village he has been closely connected to throughout his life.

Through the character of Mr. Hai, Kim Lân highlights the image of simple, honest, and generous farmers. Simultaneously, he praises the patriotic spirit and loyalty to the revolution, which are highly commendable traits of a particular class during the period of resistance against the French. They may not have "many words," but they understood that they had to protect their nation's independence and freedom.

In conclusion, the character of Mr. Hai in the short story "The Village" has been vividly and authentically portrayed by Kim Lân. With folksy language and engaging storytelling, the author conveys profound messages about determination and unwavering loyalty to one's homeland. Through this, readers develop a deeper affection for this character and help preserve the value of the work throughout time.