

Into the Island Guard Hero Wang Jicai

Yibiao Xu

Lianyungang Open University Jiangsu Lianyungang 222016

Abstract: Kaishan Island, located in Kaishan Island Village, Yanweigang Town, Guanyun County, Lianyungang City, Jiangsu Province, has a total area of 15000 square meters, equivalent to the size of two football fields, and stands alone between the sea and the sky. At an altitude of 36.4 meters, the whole island is composed of black-brown bedrock rocks. The island is steep and winding, with strange rocks and short trees. Only seabirds rest here, and snakes and insects occupy it all year round. The natural conditions are very difficult^[1]. Wang Jicai and his wife Wang Shihua have been on this isolated island for 32 years, guarding the outpost of the east gate of the motherland. For them, guarding the island means guarding the country and the home^[2]. The deeds of guarding the island urge people to forge ahead, and the feelings of family and country forge ahead.

Keywords: Kaishan Island; Wang Jicai; Wang Shihua; Work hard and perseveringly; Model of the times; Patriotism

Fund Project:

The “Fourteenth Five-Year Plan” project of Jiangsu Open University (Jiangsu Urban Vocational College), the research results of the project “Research on the excavation and application of local red cultural resources in Jiangsu Province - taking Wang Jicai as an example”, project number: 2021-W-15; Research results of the educational reform project “Research and practice on the path of integrating innovation and entrepreneurship teaching with ideological and political elements”, project number: YB2021021.

Preface

On July 27, 2018, the hero of guarding the island, Wang Jicai, died of illness. Before that, the story of Wang Jicai and his wife defending Kaishan Island for many years spread among the crowd. Wang Jicai fulfilled his promise to protect Kaishan Island until the last moment of his life. His and his wife’s deeds of guarding the island made countless people cry.

1. The island lighthouse is always bright

Kaishan Island has a vast sea area, surrounded by the famous Kaishan fishing grounds, with more than 60 kinds of rich fishery resources for fishermen in the surrounding six cities of Jiangsu, Shandong and Henan. The fishermen are driving their fishing boats in the boundless sea. Wang Jicai lights an indelible beacon for them on Kaishan Island, guides them in the direction, and silently guards the tranquility of the sea area. When they see the beacon on Kaishan Island, the fishermen’s mind is bright. When fishing at sea, fishermen often encounter sudden winds, clouds and waves. At this time, they want to find a place to get ashore to avoid the terrible waves, but they do not know that the hundreds of miles of hidden reefs around Kaishan Island fluctuate. Once they hit the rocks, the ship will destroy people and fall into the sea. The situation is even worse. When this weather comes, Wang Jicai runs around the watchtower, beating loudly with a broken basin and a mallet in the storm, and shouting to warn the fishermen that there are eight hundred miles of hidden reefs around the island, which can’t reach the shore. He goes back and forth until the wind stops raining and the waves subside. Because the fisherman was seasick when he went out to sea without any experience, he was very uncomfortable and would sail to Kaishan Island. When Wang Jicai passed the watchtower and saw this situation, he would deliver the prepared medicine to the boat through the rope to save the plight of many fishers. After a long time, everyone affectionately called him the island owner. Wang Jicai laughed at this, but also loved to hear it and was happy in his heart.

2. Kaishan Island golden couple sentry

2.1 Wife's understanding

Only two dogs can accompany him on the island. Even if he is alone, he should raise the national flag. Whenever the first ray of sunshine in the morning shines on Kaishan Island, Wang Jicai, a tall man of 1.8 meters, shakes the national flag in the breeze, and then puts the national flag on the flag platform, and solemnly salutes and sings the national anthem under the national flag. Every day begins like this, and always insists. His wife, Wang Shihua, was the last person in the village to know this because her husband did not truthfully tell her that he had taken a difficult and heavy task that he could not go home, had no holiday, and was a little angry. The originally agreed fifteen days had changed into three months, six months, almost a year. Wang Shihua finally waited until the time to go to the island, and wanted to personally ask her husband where he put himself and his family, and how he had to do this task. He had to go to Kaishan Island to find Wang Jicai to vent her anger. But when she set foot on Kaishan Island and saw her husband, there was no anger in her heart, only heartache and unbearable. Wang Jicai was on the island alone because he hadn't been off the island for a long time, and no one could have a haircut and wash it properly. His hair was long and messy. The face has become rough and chapped due to the long time of wind and sun exposure, and the full beard almost fills up the space around the mouth and nose, and the eyes are covered with blood because of the long time of wind and the frequent patrol at night. His clothes were ragged and shabby, and his exposed skin was all pustules left by mosquitoes. The living place was a stone house built by the People's Liberation Army during its previous garrison. It was simple but neat. Wang Jicai saw that his daughter-in-law was guilty and dared not speak up, but his wife, Wang Shihua, could not bear to blame any more, but secretly determined to follow her husband to guard the island. "He defends the island and I defend him", Wang Shihua will accompany her husband in the next few decades with this belief.

2.2 Couples are united

Shortly after his wife Wang Shihua visited her husband, she quit her job as a school teacher and resolutely went to Kaishan Island. Accompanied her husband in construction and production on Kaishan Island, opened up wasteland, painstakingly watered, and planted fruit trees, vegetables and other vegetation on the island. Let the originally desolate and bare Kaishan Island become full of vitality and green. Every day, as usual, the team of two people kicked the red flag and recorded the ocean climate information every day. Looking back on 32 years, Wang Jicai and his wife raised more than 11000 national flags on the island and wrote more than 190 logs. Because of the strong wind and sunshine on the sea and the rapid depreciation of the national flag, the couple bought more than 200 national flags at their own expense during the thirty-two years. There was no decent flagpole on the island, so they replaced it with bamboo poles ^[3]. Wang Jicai said to his wife, "Where the national flag is planted, the land is where it is. Kaishan Island is a small part of the motherland." For him, the national flag is not an eternal belief. Even in the small area of Kaishan Island, the national flag should be the brightest color in the blue sea ^[4].

2.3 Safeguard the justice of the sea area

1986 was the beginning of reform and opening up. Under the wave of reform and opening up, more and more people go to the sea to do business and work outside to improve their economic conditions. With the deepening of reform and development, more and more business models emerge and more opportunities for making money. Over the past ten years, villagers around the village have had a good life in the spring of reform. Many villagers have moved to towns and cities to find opportunities to become rich. Even Kaishan Village has changed its former decline and taken on a new look. Only Wang Jicai and his wife are still stationed on an isolated island without water or electricity, and often suffer from food shortages. Many people who care about them advised them to go down to the island and find a way to make a living. Every time someone came to visit them on the island, Wang Jicai declined the topic politely. Wang Jicai believes that the best achievement and spiritual consolation is to stick to this land, not because of the amount of money or material abundance, but because of the faith in his heart. When the economy began to become active, the business that was not seen by others was also remembered. Illegal traders began to smuggle and smuggle in the Kaishan Sea, and even coveted the facilities and equipment on the Kaishan Island. Wang Jicai guarded the sea area with the momentum of one man in charge and ten thousand people can't leave. He closely monitored the situation of ships on the sea. Whenever he found any sign of smuggling and smuggling gangs committing crimes, he immediately reported to the police and stopped many criminal gangs from taking illegal actions. Use practical actions to warn them that the Kaishan sea area is not a place outside the law, and justice is guarded here. Only residents who abide by the law and obey the law are welcome ^[6].

3. Model of the times

3.1 Entering the public's vision

Wang Jicai and his wife have lived without water and electricity for more than 20 years, which is unimaginable today. It was not until 2008 that a local correspondent in Lianyungang filmed a documentary recording the lives of the two people guarding the island and took it to the television station for publicity. The story of the people guarding the island in Kaishan Island came into the public's view for the first time. It was only after the installation of a small wind turbine that it was powered on for the first time. In 2014, Wang Jicai and Wang Shihua, the Golden Couple Sentinels of Kaishan Island, were set as the major examples of the country's advanced deeds and rated as the model of the times ^[7].

3.2 The epochal significance of Wang Jicai's spirit

Wang Jicai died of a sudden illness while on duty. Wang Shihua inherited his will to continue to protect Kaishan Island. For them, Kaishan Island has long been home and home. At present, there are not only Wang Shihua, but also three Communists and other veterans on duty in Kaishan Island. Although Wang Jicai left, thousands of Wang Jicai rose again. Wang Jicai has been here for 32 years, from youth to the last moment of life, and has fulfilled his life ideal of self-cultivation and family unity to defend the motherland. He is busy on the lonely island and works hard to protect it. He is determined to put the country and people at the top of his heart, ignore the comments and distractions from the outside world, not be entangled with fame and wealth, but only care about his own heart ^[8].

Epilogue

Kaishan Island has made Wang Jicai, and Wang Jicai carried forward Kaishan Island. Today's Kaishan Island has become a national 3A scenic spot and is no longer as lonely as before. Because there are the cutest people here, Wang Jicai and Wang Shihua. Their painstaking efforts have brought new life to the once isolated island. On a sunny morning, standing at the top of the island and looking into the distance, the sea and sky are the same, the seabirds are flying with the sky, the sails are gone, the sea breeze is blowing, the waves are blowing, and people are mesmerized. People watch the starry sky on the sea here at night, and experience the wonderful feeling of "the sun and the moon are bright, if out of it. The stars are bright, if out of it". Today, the bronze statue of Wang Jicai stands on Kaishan Island, holding a telescope to look into the distance. In his view, the mountains and seas are as old as before, and the years are peaceful. Although the "model of the times" Wang Jicai has gone, the watchman's duty log has never been interrupted. The plain belief that "home is the island, and the island is the country" is spreading. His patriotic dedication is still on the island. A spiritual coordinate is radiating light with Kaishan Island as the center, and has become a social trend, which continues forever.

References:

- [1] Kaishan Island Militia Post [J]. Century Style, 2020 (07): 50.
- [2] Xiaoyan Yan. Wang Jicai and Wang Shihua: Husband and Wife guard Haijiang [J]. Party Construction, 2022 (04): 71.
- [3] Jinming Zheng. National Flag, the Red on Kaishan Island [J]. National New Bibliography, 2019 (09): 17-18
- [4]. Shihua Wang. Let the National Flag on Kaishan Island Always Fly High [J]. Research on Ideological and Political Work, 2018 (10): 29.
- [5] Zhiguo Wang. Home in Kaishan Island [J]. National New Bibliography, 2021 (08): 72.
- [6] Guangdi Bai. Wang Jicai and Wang Shihua: Defend the Island and Defend the Country without Complaint and Regret [J]. Communist Party Member (Hebei), 2021 (Z1): 140.
- [7] Jinming Zheng. Passing the Model Spirit with Hot Stories [J]. China Press, 2019 (06): 68-69.
- [8] Biqing Wang. Wang Jicai Keeps an Island All His Life [J]. Children of China, 2019 (19): 77.