

Theatre play

A play for performance by children: was written, showing a mason - often drunk - and who don't want to reinforce its own house...and her wife and child complain.

After hesitation, and new damage by a cyclone, he will agree to participate to a training course about cyclone resistant construction.

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A Stubborn mason

Scene 1: Mr. Vinh enters into his house with tottering steps and wine bottle in his hand. He both goes and sings:

Mr. Vinh:

- How strange and persistent the rain is! However it looks interesting “ If It rains no need to work; we sleep if it’s sunny and sun goes somewhere”. It must be happy if my life is like that. It is very lucky if it rains, we can drink a lot with pleasure.

Mrs. Ha (wife, running out to help her husband stand up)

- You only live with wine and with nobody! How miserable I am! Oh my terrible husband! It rains heavily with strong wind and there are many leaks in house’s roof, why you don’t care how to repair, only know to drink and drink all day!

Mrs. Hoa (neighbour enters):

- Mrs. Ha, what are happening?

Mrs. Ha:

- You see my husband drinking all time. The roof of house is broken, but he doesn’t care and next time is storm season. I don’t know why God chooses my house and take my house’s roof away. We don’t have enough money for life, but it seems that every year we have to pay for remaking the roof. We are in dept because of cyclones.

Mrs. Hoa:

- Your husband sleeps? I go to here to inform you that our commune has just received project about building *Cyclone Prevention House*.
- Tomorrow project DW will organize a training program about ways to build cyclone prevention houses for masons in commune. You ask your husband to go to commune to participate so that he can know how to build houses for the others and to make his own house safer.

Mrs. Ha:

- Oh, it is really interesting? Tomorrow I have to tell that to my dear husband.

Ms. Van (child):

- Mum, is dad sleeping?

Mrs. Ha:

- Yes, drunken and sleeping!

Ms. Van:

- Mum, you permit me to go to my friend’s house for studying because our house is leaking and dilapidated like taking a shower. There is no place for me to study, is that ok?

Mrs. Ha:

- Ok, remember to come back early! Try to study well for a better life and bright future. When we have enough money, we rebuild the house with a flat roof, and we can sleep well without thinking and worrying.

Ms. Van:

- That is not true. I see that my friends are not rich and only a normal house, but it can be resistant to cyclones. There are many houses like that in our village.

Mrs. Ha:

- It is because of your father, he doesn't care to learn. He should go to their house in order to learn how to build a safe house and have an imitation, but he also doesn't care. Tomorrow there is a training program in commune; let me try to ask your father for learning.

Ms. Van:

- Good bye Mum, I have to go now (going out of stage)

Mrs. Ha:

- (Van has gone). Mrs. Ha puts some tanks in leaking places. She both does and mumbles.

Mrs. Ha:

- This place is also dilapidated. Iron sheets are used many years, rebuilt many times, for that there are many leaks. I don't know whether this stubborn man will go to commune for learning or not?

Sound: (snoring sound from Mr. Vinh)

Scene 2: In the morning, Mr. Vinh is still sleeping.

Mrs. Ha:

- My husband, get up! Get up to go to commune for the training program about building Cyclone Prevention House.

Mr. Vinh (lying and turning around)

- Tired! Tired! Let me sleep first!

Mrs. Ha:

- Get up! You are a mason so you have to go in order to know how to build a safe house for other.

Mr. Vinh: (Get up and speak loudly)

- Woman knows nothing! It's for a long time I don't have any technique. Houses built by me are collapsed or not?

Mrs. Ha:

- Oh, I have no time to quarrel with you, so tired! I have to go to rice field now.

Mr. Long (a friend of Mr. Vinh goes there)

- Mr. Vinh! I have been asked to build Mrs. Hoa's house. Do you build with us?

Mr. Vinh:

- Really!!! If it's true, come here and drink some with me to congratulate.

Mr. Long:

- However, for this house, I want to apply some techniques about building Cyclone Prevention House. Recently, I have just participated in a training program about building Cyclone Prevention House from project DW and I see it very interesting. Houses built like that cost a little and can be resistant to cyclones. We don't need to worry when cyclones come. On the roof, we put some concrete beams to make to roof stronger with carefulness, so roofs never throw away.

Mr. Vinh: (interrupting)

- Mr. Long, you build the house for you or for the other?

Mr. Long:

- Of course, for the other!

Mr. Vinh:

- It's unnecessary to apply techniques, only be simple! We accept to build their house, just do in a normal way as long as the house is beautiful. That is ok! We leave money for drink. No need to buy more iron, nail. Putting crews only makes our work more complex and it costs more money.

Mr. Long:

- We are close friends, so I have to advice you to go to commune for the training program about building Cyclone Prevention House, it must be interesting! You should learn to know.

Mr. Vinh:

- No! No! I only teach them, never study from them. You see that in this village wherever I go people always invite me for drinking wine? For that although sometimes I don't want to be drunk I still get drunk. Now drink one more glass, 100%.

Mr. Long:

- No, you drink alone! Health is gold.

Mr. Vinh:

- You say wrongly. Being man, you have to drink wine or you want to be woman?

Mrs. Ha: (she has just come back from rice field, enter stage)

- Oh, unreasonable! Man without wine becomes woman and woman without wine becomes man? Broken roof, columns are near to collapse but you still don't care. How miserable I am! Cyclone season is near to come, house is leaking and there are no places for children to study! You should consider and think out solutions to repair the house. I hear someone say that this year weather will change all time and many cyclones will come.

Mr. Vinh:

- Have you seen on TV that there are many cyclones?

Mrs. Ha:

- We have often seen cyclones on TV almost everyday.

Mr. Vinh:

- Uhm, there are more than ten cyclones every year and strong cyclones hit to other country, not to our country, so you do not so worry. You also don't think about that because we don't have money to repair the house.

Mrs. Ha:

- Ok!!! Tomorrow I will borrow some money from Women association of commune. You should make a plan to repair the house safer.

Mr. Long:

- It's right. You should roof the house again because cyclone season is near to come. Ok! Good bye.

Ms. Van: (come back and bring bag in her shoulder)

- Hello! Dad, you don't go for a training program in commune? I have some friends whose father has gone for training, and then they make their house safer and nothing to worry when cyclones come. In school, I am also trained about cyclone prevention.

Mr. Vinh:

- You are only a child! Training???

Ms. Van:

- No, I can not prevent but I have some interesting ideas about cyclone prevention for adults.

Mr. Vinh:

- What's your idea? Let me know!! Hurry up!!!

Ms. Van:

- Yes, adults have to dike for preventing flood, plant trees to stop winds, do not destroy forests and cut trees. Moreover, it's necessary to rebuild and reinforce houses with techniques about cyclone prevention.

Mr. Vinh:

- Silly! I think training program will help all children be able to roof the house again so that I don't need to do that work. Ok, you should go to school now! I am sure that in a few days my house will no longer leak, so you will not go to other house for studying.

**Scene 3: Cyclone with strong wind and heavy rain has come. Mr. Vinh's family is in his house.
There are sounds from loudspeaker in village:**

- Allo! Allo! This is radio station of Thuy Xuan commune. Inform to everybody that cyclone no 5 will come to our province, wind level 7 and 8. Suggest that all people have to tie up your house carefully to prevent this cyclone.

Mr. Vinh:

- Luckily! We have just made the roof again time and if not, there is no place to sit when cyclone comes.

Mrs. Ha:

- I still feel worried. We roof the house every year but it is still thrown away. It seems that every year cyclone chooses our house to express its strongness, why other houses are ok, nothing happens to them.

Mr. Vinh:

- I think our families have to invite wizard to pray for our house.

Mrs. Ha:

- No need to worship! Wizard is nothing. You should invite foreigners of DW project so that they can help us to sleep well in cyclone.

Mr. Vinh:

- You... You don't believe in your husband, but you believe in someone.

Mrs. Ha: (come into house and come out in a hurry way)

- Oh, my husband! The iron sheep roof at the back of the house has been thrown away. You have to be careful with all part of roof. Now let's discuss more to find solutions.

Ms. Van:

- Oh my God! I am so frightened.
(All people in family are so frightened and have to hide under the table)

Scene 4: Cyclone has ended; Mr. Long goes to the house of Mr. Vinh

Mr. Long:

- Oh my God! The roof of your house is thrown away again! You see my house? Nothing happens.

Mrs. Ha:

- Mr. Long, how miserable I am! My house never escapes from being destroyed by cyclone. Money borrowed to repair house has not paid, now I have another dept. You cannot imagine how miserable I am. It is because of my husband, I have told many time but he doesn't follow. He's very stubborn. I ask him to follow techniques from training program but he doesn't care. He has built some houses for many people that they have not lived in; if something happens with their houses we will be bankrupt.

Mr. Vinh:

- Don't say more! I have known my fault. Tomorrow I go to commune to register for another training program. Mr. Long! Tomorrow you help me to roof the house and let me know some techniques about cyclone prevention.

Mrs. Ha:

- If you follow me earlier my family is not miserable like that.

Mr. Vinh:

- Ok! I feel regret! My family cleans the house and makes the roof again. Mr. Long, today you permit me to live in your house, ok?

Mr. Long:

- Yes, you are welcome!