

Chairman Mao Is With the Masses

ON August 18, 1966, Chairman Mao Tse-tung, our great teacher, our great leader, our great supreme commander and our great helmsman, wearing the uniform of the People's Liberation Army, together with his close comrade-in-arms Comrade Lin Piao and other comrades, reviewed a mighty million strong army of the proletarian cultural revolution from the rostrum at Tien An Men.

Our great teacher's heart is one with the hearts of the revolutionary masses, and with one voice they hailed the great proletarian cultural revolution together.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung trusts the masses the most; he believes that "the people, and the people alone, are the motive force of world history." In the great proletarian cultural revolution Comrade Mao Tse-tung has repeatedly exhorted us that it is necessary to trust the masses, rely on them and respect their initiative. It is necessary to boldly arouse the masses and to let the masses themselves rise up in revolution, educate themselves, run their own affairs and liberate themselves.

Some people fall down on the road of revolution precisely because they do not trust the masses and do not rely on the masses. They utterly ignore the tremendous revolutionary enthusiasm inherent in the masses. They always throw up a host of restrictions and prohibitions to bind the masses hand and foot and even suppress the mass movement to the extent of standing truth on its head and confusing black and white. At critical moments of the revolution they lose their bearings and take the wrong line. Lessons of this sort are not rare in the history of our Party. We should take precautions against such things.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung always says that Communists must never divorce themselves from the masses, stand above them and become bureaucratic overlords. They must be ordinary workers in the eyes of the masses, immerse themselves in the masses and identify themselves with the masses. Comrade Mao Tse-tung has set a brilliant example for us. He always

regards himself as a servant of the people, bears the people in mind at all times and serves them wholeheartedly. He keeps in closest contact with the masses, has the warmest love for them, pays the greatest attention to them, and understands the needs, aspirations and moods of the masses the most. He is the closest friend of the masses.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung is most modest. He is best at learning from the masses, summing up their experience and bringing together their wisdom. Comrade Mao Tse-tung has said that revolutionary statesmen "are simply the leaders of millions upon millions of statesmen — the masses. Their task is to collect the opinions of these mass statesmen, sift and refine them, and return them to the masses, who then take them and put them into practice. They are therefore not the kind of aristocratic 'statesmen' who work behind closed doors and fancy they have a monopoly of wisdom."

Every Communist Party member, every revolutionary cadre must, following the teachings of Comrade Mao Tse-tung, be good at following the mass line in work, namely, from the masses and to the masses, and be a pupil of the masses before becoming a teacher of the masses. He should never pretend to know what he does not know, he should make inquiries on every matter, not feel ashamed to ask and learn from the people and be good at listening carefully to the views of the masses. He will certainly meet with setbacks and commit mistakes, if, before acquiring a clear understanding of the situation and before consulting the masses, he gesticulates, arbitrarily issues orders or directives and stands above the masses, blindly ordering them about.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung is the greatest Marxist-Leninist of the present era. The close integration of the great thought of Mao Tse-tung with the masses is the source of the victory of our communist cause and also the source of the victory of our great proletarian cultural revolution.

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