We taught them never to accept the handout. We taught them everything we knew.

A fortune begins with a penny. It is better to suffer than to do evil. You must give back whatever you receive. Don't be loud like the Americans. Stay away from the Chinese. They don't like us. Watch out for the Koreans. They're worse than the Koreans.

IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, especially, we often lost them. The Cavanilles, a settlement near the mouth of the Cebu River, lived in the Cebuano Coast. One in an irrigation ditch. One in a laundry tub. We should have told them not to expect anything. Our best advice was to keep the lid on their house, or they would be kicked out. We recommended packing them in the back of a truck and leaving them behind. One was kicked in the stomach and left to die. Mysterious infections occurred.

We told them stories about tongue-cut sparrows and treacherous cranes and baby doves that always remembered to let their parents peek on them. We tried to teach them manners. Never point with your chopsticks. Never touch the last piece of food from a plate. We praised them when they were kind to others but told them not to expect to be rewarded for their good deeds. We scolded them whenever they tried to talk back.

THE BUDDHA IN THE ATTIC

The Buddha in the Attic—a boy and a girl in their hands. They had secret words that went away—in their hands. They had secret words that went away—in their hands. They had secret words that went away—in their hands. They had secret words that went away—in their hands. They had secret words that went away—in their hands.