

## **Funding revolution**

Many people may not know that Zhang Bishi was a good friend of Sun Yat sen. He followed the trend of history, understood and sympathized with the revolutionary cause led by Sun Yat sen. When the revolutionary party members engaged in revolutionary activities overseas, Zhang Bishi hinted that the branch companies affiliated with Nanyang would provide economic non-public assistance to the overseas revolutionary party members.

In the second year of Xuantong in the Qing Dynasty (1910), when he returned to Singapore, he heard of the patriotic deeds of Dr. Sun Yat sen and the revolutionaries and was very appreciative. Just as the Chinese Revolutionary League was raising money everywhere, he immediately secretly funded Dr. Sun Yat sen with 300000 yuan through his friend Hu Hanmin, known as the "revolutionary treasurer". Under his leadership, Chinese people from various British ports donated money and directly supported the Xinhai Revolution led by Sun Yat sen. Afterwards, Sun Yat sen had a close relationship with Zhang Yu and received strong support from Zhang Bishi.

After the outbreak of the Xinhai Revolution, he and overseas Chinese Zhang Yaoxuan donated funds to support Sun Yat sen's revolutionary cause in the name of the Nanyang Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, and personally donated 70000 silver taels to support the Fujian military and civilians. With his support, his second son Zhang Zhijuan also became a member of the Chinese Revolutionary League. The father and son donated a huge sum of money in the name of the Nanyang Chinese Chamber of Commerce to support Sun Yat sen's revolution.

After the death of Zhang Bishi, Sun Yat sen was deeply saddened and immediately sent representatives to offer wreaths and couplets as a sign of mourning. The couplets read: "Good wine won the gold medal, fragrance wafts across the world; strange heroes won people's hearts and will be remembered for eternity.". His coffin was transported back to his hometown of Tai Po for burial by special ships through Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shantou. President Lai Yuen hung erected a monument for him, and government agencies in the Netherlands and the United States lowered their flags at half mast throughout the area.