



FIGURE 1: Dạ Thảo Phương, December 2021. Photo by David Vujanovic.

2. DẠ THẢO PHƯƠNG

Translated by Cao Ngọc Đoan Trang

The Light

Originally posted on Facebook by Dạ Thảo Phương on April 8, 2022, <https://www.facebook.com/dathaophuongvn/posts/pfbidoBiG7n67Nn5acpkxmQQtAgmMW3P4B1ZHPmySh4EXz4uF5JBrkEL2qs792BYBpubzl>.

I have been a victim of violence, rape, slander, and retaliation.

These matters have gravely assaulted my dignity, but they have not taken it away completely or debased its value.

Therefore, I share this public denunciation—without hiding my face, without hiding my identity, taking responsibility before the law, the public, and my conscience.

Some people say that by doing this, I and those close to me are embarking on a dangerous, hurtful war.

I do not see this as a war. For me, this is something that I cannot help but do, because it is an imperative originating from my personal sense of dignity and an urgent demand shaped by my sense of social responsibility.

This is not a story of literary or political partisanship.

This is my story, the story of a woman who was raped and falsely accused.

I do not seek revenge against any individual, for there is no rancor in me that needs retribution.

I am also not asking for absolute justice, because there is no miracle that can make up for my loss and suffering during the past twenty-three years. Twenty-three years, almost half of my life. Nothing can repair the world that was mine before I was raped. The whole, healthy world inside of me seemed to promise a welcoming future. But then I was deprived of that future forever.

But, if we call this a war, then it is a war to protect The Light.

The Light of Truth, of Conscience, of Responsibility, of Love, of Healing.

The Light does not belong to anyone alone, but to every one of us.

I hope to see The Light again in the remaining part of my life, and in the lives of other victims of sexual abuse.

Thank you to all who have had the courage to let The Light rise up in the most natural, purest way.

Dạ Thảo Phương

3. DẠ THẢO PHƯƠNG

Translated by Vũ Ngọc Kiều Khanh

The Entire Truth about the Relationship between Me and Lương Ngọc An

Originally posted on Facebook by Dạ Thảo Phương on April 10, 2022,
<https://www.facebook.com/dathaophuongvn/posts/117032397617240>.

* Restricted: Readers under 16 require an accompanying parent.