

*The Good Earth*  
Chapters 8 & 9

Wang Lung is weak and feeble during the long famine, but he will not sell his land. Anger swells up inside him when he is asked to sell it. Why would this anger come? He is tired and his children are famished. His wife had a birth and now she is incredibly weak. But he refuses the offer all the same. How could he sell the land that fed them and the land he lived off of, the same land that is flesh and blood? These three men who come from the village to buy land are well fed and have plenty of money. They live in comfort while others die and are only skin and bones. What heartless beasts to try to rip him off when they had all he needed! So he musters up all of his anger and shouts at them how he would feed his children with the earth and then bury them with that same earth. The earth shall create, feed, and destroy Wang Lung's children if they do not move south. So O-lan offers to sell some benches. This, Wang Lung can bear. No, his land he would never sell; he couldn't. They wouldn't have anything to come back to. His anger comes from being asked to sell something that he never would at an unfair price.