

# 虞舜

## Yu Shun

宣公上人講於1987年10月23日

Commentary by the Venerable Master Hua on October 23, 1987

廖親達 英譯 Translated into English by Alfie Lew



姓姚，名重華，古冀州人，目有重瞳，孝感動天。象為助耕，鳥為助耘。父瞽瞍，頑；繼母，嚚；弟象，傲。雖有焚廩、浚井之難，但曲盡孝道。於三十歲時，唐堯聞其賢，以二女妻之（娥皇、女英），九男事之，學其德行。所居之民，聞風而化，一年成聚，二年成邑，三年成都。輔政三十年，堯禪位於舜。政治清明，男耕女織，所謂「日出而作，日入而息，鑿井而飲，耕田而食，帝力何有於我哉？」人民無貪，禮讓相處，故感「五日一風，十日一雨；風不鳴條，雨不破塊。」帝崩於蒼梧，在位四十九年。禪位於禹，享年一百十歲。

堯、舜是中國古代兩位聖君，帝堯叫陶唐氏，帝舜叫有虞氏。虞舜姓姚，名叫重華，是山西古冀州人，他生來就有特殊的相貌，每隻眼睛都有兩個瞳孔；楚霸王也是這樣。舜對父母很盡孝，孝感動天，他在歷山下耕田時，曾經感動了象來為他耕田，鳥來為他耘草。

### Essay:

His surname was Yao and he was called Chong Hua. He was a citizen of the ancient Jizhou, and he was born with dual pupils. His filial piety deeply touched the heavens so that elephants came to plow his fields and birds to pluck the weeds for him. His father, Gu Sou, was a stubborn man, and his stepmother was ignorant. He had an arrogant half-brother, Xiang. In spite of the barn-burning and well-digging incidences, he carried out his filial duty to the greatest extent. At the age of thirty, his worthiness was noticed by Emperor Yao of the ancient Tang Empire, who married his two daughters, Er-Huang and Nu-Ying, to him and sent nine of his sons to serve him and learn from him. Local residents, wanting to be near him because of his character, formed a small village in one year. It grew to the size of a township in the second year, then the size of a large city in year three.

After Shun had served as his minister for thirty years, Emperor Yao abdicated to him. Under Emperor Shun's virtuous and upright governance, men engaged in farming and women in weaving. There was a saying, "Out to work at sunrise, retire at sunset, drink from the well we drilled, eat the crops we planted -- what effect does the power of the emperor have on me?" The citizens were not greedy, but were respectful and amicable. For this reason, they attracted prosperous responses such as these: "Wind swept through on every fifth day while rain came every tenth day. The wind blew gently through the tree branches with only a whisper, and the rain fell lightly on the crops, so as to not damage them. After forty-nine years of reign, Emperor Shun died in Cangwu at the age of one hundred and ten. He passed his throne on to Emperor Yu.

虞舜的家庭很複雜，父親叫瞽瞍，雖有眼睛但不明理，不辨黑白是非，對事剛愎自用，頑固不化。頑固，就是舊腦筋，腦筋太死板了，怎麼頑固法呢？譬如他拿一塊黃銅，你拿一塊黃金，你用黃金和他換黃銅，他不換的。為什麼不換？他覺得我這個黃銅，比你那個金子更值錢，更寶貴。你告訴他說：「這是金子，是比黃銅貴得多。」他不相信的，這就是頑固，死腦瓜骨的。

繼母嚚，嚚就是不守規矩，也就是說話不忠實，不誠懇，儘打妄語，常說假話，搬弄是非。繼母有一個兒子叫象，大舜這個弟弟不是他父親生的，是他後母帶來的兒子，所以和舜根本沒有骨血的關係，但是他還認他作弟弟，可是他這個弟弟非常傲慢。

舜在沒有做皇帝的時候，受了很多苦，這苦是誰給他的呢？就是他父親。他父親為什麼給他這麼多苦呢？因為瞽瞍愛後妻所生的兒子象，所以父親、繼母與象三人常常想害大舜，但是每次舜都能逢凶化吉，避開劫難。若是舜有小小的過失，三人就給他罪受；可是舜還是非常孝順父親及繼母，友愛弟弟，他日日篤行謹慎，不敢稍有懈怠，一點都不失為人子之道和兄弟的孝慈；所以二十歲的時候便以孝聞名於天下了。

他三十歲時，年紀已老的帝堯聽聞到他的德行，加上四方諸侯的舉薦，就用他來攝行天子的事。帝堯先把兩個女兒（娥皇、女英）送給舜做妻子，以便觀察他的內德；《易經》上說：「二女同居而其志不同。」這是說二個太太同居一處，難以融洽相處。帝堯之所以如此，無非想要試探舜是不是可以「齊家」，完善地處於二個妻子之間。結果兩個妻子恭謹持家，不敢以皇帝女兒的身分而輕慢舜的親戚，很有婦德。堯又派九個兒子尊奉舜為師，向他學習道德及思想，結果這九個兒子一天比一天敦厚謹敬。

☞待續

### Commentary:

Yao and Shun were two sage kings in ancient China. Emperor Yao was of the Tao-Tang clan, and Emperor Shun was of the Yo-Yu clan. Yu Shun, whose surname was Yao and name was Chong Hua. He was a citizen of ancient Jizhou. He was born with a peculiar trait - each eye had dual pupils; Chu Ba Wang also had this characteristic. Shun was devoted in fulfilling his filial duty to his parents, and his filiality deeply touched the heavens. When he was farming in Li Shan, elephants came to plow his fields and birds to pluck out the weeds.

The family situation of Shun was complicated. His father, who was called Gu Sou, had perfectly good eyes but could not see what was right and what was wrong. He was obstinate and opinionated. Obstinate means stubborn. How obstinate was he? For instance, if he had a piece of brass and you had a piece of gold, he wouldn't trade his piece of brass for your piece of gold. Why? He felt that his brass was more valuable than your gold. If you said to him, "This is gold. It is much more expensive than brass," he would not have believed you. This is to be obstinate -- the brain is clogged up.

His stepmother was two-faced, which denotes misbehaving or not abiding by rules -- in other words unfaithful, untruthful, and dishonest. Her speech was nonsensical and spread discord. She had a son called Xiang who was Shun's stepbrother, but Xiang was not the biological son of Shun's father. He was brought into the family by Shun's stepmother, but was not blood related. Shun however treated him as if he were his blood brother, although Xiang was very arrogant.

Shun suffered much before he became emperor. Who brought about his suffering? It was his father. Why did his father bring so much suffering upon him? It was because Gu Sou really loved his second wife's son, Xiang. His father, the stepmother and Xiang frequently intended to harm the great Shun, but each time Shun was able to turn ill fortune into a blessing and avoided endangerment. If Shun made the slightest mistake, the three would punish him, yet Shun remained exceedingly filial to his father and stepmother, and loved his brother. Each day he faithfully undertook everything diligently and did not slack off; he was never the slightest bit remiss in carrying out his filial duty to his parents and being compassionate to his brother. Hence, at the age of twenty he was well-known in the whole country for his filial piety.

At the age of thirty, his moral integrity was noticed by the aging Emperor Yao. With the endorsement of the dukes through the kingdom, he was appointed to manage the emperor's affairs. But first, Emperor Yao sent his two daughters, Er-Huang and Nu-Ying, to be Shun's wives so he could observe his moral integrity concerning family affairs. The *Book of Change* says: "The ideals of two women who live together are distinct from each other." This means that it is difficult for two wives to live in harmony under the same roof. This arrangement was precisely Emperor Yao's method of testing Shun's ability to maintain family unity and to keep harmony between the two wives. The wives dutifully upheld their honor of family respect and never exerted their royal status upon Shun's relatives or showed disrespect to them. They both exhibited great morality as spouses. As a result, Yao sent nine of his sons to venerate Shun as their teacher and to learn moral ethics and philosophy from him. Day by day, these sons increased in sincerity and respect. ☞ To be continued