

論語淺釋 (續) The Analects of Confucius (continued)



宣化上人講
楊維光、劉年聰 英譯

Lectures by the Venerable Master Hua
English Translation by Yong Wei Kwong and Liew Yen Chong

【雍也第六】

Chapter 6: As for Yong

(六) 季康子問：「仲由可使從政也與？」

子曰：「由也果，於從政乎何有？」曰：「賜也可使從政也與？」曰：「賜也達，於從政乎何有？」曰：「求也可使從政也與？」曰：「求也藝，於從政乎何有？」

【上人講解】（接本刊642期）

孔子是中國有史以來第一位的教育家，他能以「刪詩書，訂禮樂」，他不隨便亂講話的。他對人的評價也只是一個字，不是像我們這麼囉囉唆唆，說長論短的。所以我們每一個人要認識：聖人為什麼叫「聖人」？就因為他不隨便地輕易發言。你問他什麼事情，他不隨便答覆你這個問題，不輕舉妄動的；所謂「夫人不言，言必有中」。這季孫氏問

(6) Ji Kangzi inquired, "Is Zhongyou fit to be a government official?"

The Master replied, "Zhongyou is resolute. What difficulty is there for him to serve in government?"

Ji Kangzi then asked, "As for Ci, is he suitable to be a government official?"

The Master said, "Ci is perceptive. What difficulty is there for him to serve in government?"

Ji Kangzi inquired further, "What about Qiu? Is he qualified to be a government official?"

The Master affirmed, "Qiu is capable. What difficulty is there for him to serve in government?"

Venerable Master Hua's Commentary: (Continued from issue#642)

Confucius is the foremost educator since the dawn of Chinese history. From the fact that he "edited the *Book of Songs* and the *Book of History*; and standardized the *Book of Rites* and the *Book of Music*," we can infer that he did not say things arbitrarily. Unlike us, who use long-winded statements to talk about others' strengths and shortcomings, Confucius used only one word to critique people. Therefore, we must understand why a sage is called a "sage." It is because he does not make casual remarks or give comments lightly. Whatever it is that you ask him, he will not answer your question without due consideration, meaning he never acts recklessly. It is

起他三個弟子，可不可以請他們出來做官？他對弟子的評價都只是一個字。

「季康子問」：季孫氏問。

「仲由可使從政也與」：仲由可不可以請他出來做官？

「子曰」：孔子都不囉唆，就是一個字，就說，「由也果」：仲由很果敢。果，是果決、果斷、果敢，也就是近於「剛」；「剛、毅、木、訥，近仁」，他與仁是相近的。所以不是像我們所說的，說他有不好的一面，粗裡粗氣。

他那個粗氣，並不是像一般人那種粗氣；他是很理直氣壯的，不加思索，也是中規中矩的，所以你不能說他是有什麼不好的地方。我們現在的出家人若能趕上子路百分之一，已經就不錯了，恐怕百分之一也不如的。為什麼呢？「子路聞過則喜」，子路聽見誰說他有過錯了，他就高興得手之舞之，足之蹈之，甚至於歡喜得不可終日。

我們現在若聽見哪一個人說我們的過錯，把眼睛一瞪，喔！那種的瞋恨心就出來了：「你怎麼說我的不對？」你看，這和子路能比得了嗎？比不了的！我們不要不自量力說：「子路那是短處。」那行為好像是短處，他就是很直的一個人，不加思索，這是他的毛病；雖然他好像粗裡粗氣的，但是沒有不中規中矩的地方。他沒有去殺人、放火、偷盜、吸毒，沒有這種情形的。

那麼問這個「由」，他只答一個「果」字；「於從政乎何有」：他出來做官又有什麼困難呢？

待續

said, “*This man does not speak much, but when he does, his words really hit the mark.*” In this passage, Lord Jisun asked Confucius whether three of his students could be appointed as government officials. In reply, Confucius used only one word to appraise them.

Ji Kangzi inquired. Lord Jisun asked Confucius, “**Is Zhongyou fit to be a government official?**” Is it possible to appoint Zhongyou as a government official? **The Master replied.** Confucius did not beat about the bush and merely used one word to describe him: “**Zhongyou is resolute.**” Zhongyou was a very resolute and courageous person. In this case, 果(guǒ) can be used in the context of 果決 (resolute and determined), 果斷 (resolute and decisive), or 果敢 (resolute and courageous). Its meaning is similar to that of “firmness” (剛 gāng), as in the saying: “Firmness, determination, simplicity, and prudence in speech approximate to benevolence.” It is a quality that is close to benevolence. Therefore, this is quite different from the negative aspect of “boorish behavior” that we often use to describe Zhongyou.

Then again, Zhongyou’s boorishness was unlike that of the ordinary uncouth person. Although he was very self-righteous and spoke confidently without pondering, he was perfectly in accord with the rules and regulations. In this sense, you cannot fault him on his behavior. If the monastics nowadays could match Zilu (Zhongyou’s style name) by one per cent, that is already not bad. I am afraid they cannot match him by even one per cent. Why? It is because “*when Zilu heard about his faults, he was elated.*” If he heard someone pointing out his mistakes, he would jump up and dance with joy, to the extent of being overwhelmed by happiness.

As for us, if we hear anyone discuss our faults and mistakes, we will glower and glare at that person. Oh, all that hatred will start pouring out: “How dare you criticize me!” You see, are we able to compare with Zilu? There is no way we can compare with him! Let us not overrate ourselves by saying, “That is Zilu’s shortcoming.” It only appears to be so. By nature, he was a very straightforward person who spoke without due consideration—that was the trouble with him. His mannerisms might seem crude, but he absolutely abided by the rules. He did not kill people, commit arson, steal things, or take drugs. He did nothing of the sort.

Now, when asked about Zhongyou, Confucius replied with only one word — resolute. **What difficulty is there for him to serve in government?** If he were to join the government service, what difficulty would there be?

To be continued