

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

宣化上人講

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【雍也第六】

Chapter 6: As for Yong

閔大夫去上朝，閔子騫就或者推著車，或者趕著車；那麼冬天的時候冷得不得了，就打顫顫。閔大夫一看：「哎！你這麼沒有用！」拿鞭子就打他：「你故意這麼裝模作樣！」一打，把衣服就給打破了，所露出的都是蘆花。閔大夫一看：「喔！難怪你這麼冷，你這個不是棉花。」就告訴他說：「這我對不起你，我錯怪你了！你後母親現在這麼樣虐待你，我一定不要她了！」

閔子騫就跪在他爸爸的面前說：「你不要這樣子！你現在知道我冷，這事你明白就得了，你不要我這個後母親。母在一子單，母去三子寒。」意思是：我後母親在，只有一子單寒；她有兩個兒子，那麼你不要她，她走了，三個兒子都是受凍了。所以閔大夫一聽，也就很感動了，說：「你真是好孩子！」所以由這一點就知道：這個閔子騫每一樣的事情是替旁人作著想，不一定盡為自己作著想。所以他才被列入德行科。

這雖然是小說的題材，但意思是很正確的，這個意思很好。所以閔子騫是注重德行的；因為注重德行，他就不願意去跟不重德行的人在一起。好像季氏，他就是被利欲熏心了，他有權力，有領袖欲，種種都是為他自己；所以閔子騫不願意為他來服務，不做費宰。

☯待續

When Grand Master Min went to attend court in the morning, Min Ziqian was tasked to push or drive the chariot. Now, during winter, the weather was unbearably cold, and Min Ziqian could not help shivering all the way. Grand Master Min took one look and said, "Hey, you are a good-for-nothing!" Brandishing his whip, he started lashing his son, shouting: "You are purposely putting on an act!" As soon as the whip hit the boy, his coat split open, revealing the reed catkins. At the sight of this, Grand Master Min muttered, "Oh, no wonder you feel so cold. What you are wearing is not cotton." He then apologized, "I am very sorry. I have wronged you! Since your step-mother is ill-treating you in this manner, I shall divorce her!"

Thereupon, Min Ziqian knelt before his father and pleaded: "Please don't! If you understand why I am cold, that will be sufficient. No matter what, you must not disown my step-mother. If Mother stays, one child is thinly clad; but if Mother leaves, three children will suffer the cold." The meaning is: If my step-mother remains at home, only one son wears an unlined coat. She has two sons of her own and if you drive her away, then three sons will have to endure the cold. When Grand Master Min heard this, he was very moved and said, "You are truly a good child!" Therefore, from this incident, we know that Min Ziqian always spared a thought for others in all matters, and did not necessarily think of his self-interests. For this reason, he was inducted into the discipline of 'Virtue and Conduct'.

This may be material for a novel, but the meaning conveyed is very apt and proper. As Min Ziqian attached great importance to virtuous conduct, he was not in favor of associating with people who had scant regard for this quality. Lord Ji, for example, was a person who was overcome by the desire for gain. He coveted power and authority, and had leadership ambitions. Everything that he did was to benefit himself. This was the reason why Min Ziqian was unwilling to work for him as a steward in the fiefdom of Bi.

☯To be continued