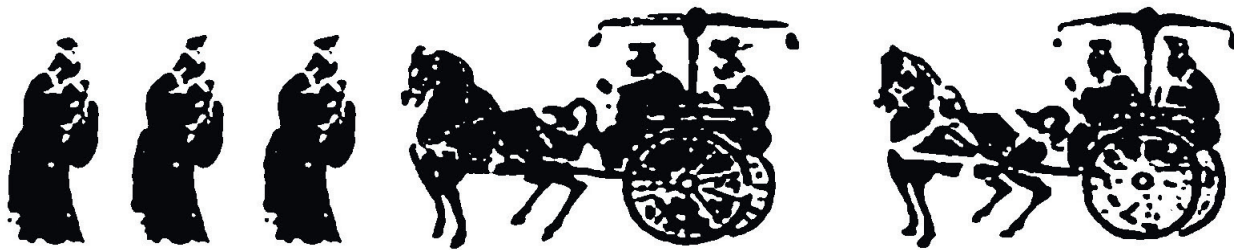


論語淺釋 (續) The Analects of Confucius (continued)



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【雍也第六】

Chapter 6: As for Yong

(續650期)

(Continued from issue #650)

費宰，就是季氏自己私人的
一個家官，一個家裏頭的官。所以
不能說是宰相，他家裏沒有宰相
的，就是給他管事的一個官。古
來的國君賜給卿大夫土地，叫他
自己去治理去，這叫「家」；費邑
是季氏自己的封地，所以這是做
他的家官。

「閔子騫曰」：閔子騫不
願意做他的家官，所以就說，
「善爲我辭焉」：好好地為我
婉辭了。「如有復我者」：假
如他還是要我來做，我只可以
避開，「則吾必在汶上矣」：
我就在汶水那兒了。齊國和魯
國之間有一條河叫汶水，那個
地方大約是三不管，魯國不太
管，齊國也管不著，這樣子他
在那兒是無拘無束了；不然
的時候，他若是在魯國住著，
請他不出來，季氏就給他一個
難看，叫他不順利。所以他說：
「我就要避開，搬走了！」這
叫明哲保身的一種方法。

☞待續

A steward in the fiefdom of Bi (費宰 *bì zǎi*) was a family administrator employed by Lord Ji, the head of the Jisun clan, in his private capacity. It is not the same as Prime Minister or Grand Councillor (宰相 *zǎi xiàng*). This person's job was to help him manage his household affairs. In ancient times, the state ruler conferred on his ministers and senior officials parcels of land, which they could govern themselves. These feudal territories are called 'fiefs' or 'family fortresses' (家 *jiā*). The fiefdom of Bi (費邑 *bì yì*) was the personal feudal estate of Lord Ji. In this case, he invited Min Ziqian to be his steward.

Min Ziqian said to the messenger. Unwilling to serve as Lord Ji's family official, Min Ziqian told the messenger, **"Please decline the offer politely on my behalf."** Kindly help me to turn down the invitation in a tactful way. **"If His Lordship summons me again, I shall move north of the Wen River!"** If he persists in inviting me to assume the post, I will have no choice but to avoid him. I will head to the other bank of the Wen River. On the border between the State of Qi and the State of Lu was a river called 'Wen' (汶水). This place was probably a no-man's land, neglected by both states, and so he could live there without restraint. If he remained in the State of Lu and still refused to take up the offer, Lord Ji would certainly teach him a lesson by making things difficult for him. Therefore, he said, "I shall avoid him by moving house!" This method is called 'being worldly wise and playing it safe'.

☞To be continued