

陶淵明詩講錄（第十七講）（續）

Lectures on Tao Yuanming's Poems (Lecture seventeen)

(continued)

葉嘉瑩教授 講 By Professor Yeh Chia-ying

晨珪譯組 英譯 English Translated by Early Bird Translation Team

「七十而從心所欲，不踰矩。」（《論語·為政》）孔子是在七十歲才做到的，而有的人，則是「群居終日，言不及義」（《論語·衛靈公》），一群人混在一起，從早到晚說的話，沒有一句是正當的，別人不敢說的我敢說，說得越低級、越下流，越得意。那不是成熟，而是一種墮落。

所以天下不同的人，有不同的境界，有不同的規矩。「父老雜亂言」，既不是頭腦保持清醒時那種拘謹、計較的話，也不是「群居終日，言不及義」那種無聊的話，而是朋友之間吐露內心真誠的話。

《飲酒詩》最後一首的最後兩句是，「但恨多謬誤，君當恕醉人」——我很抱歉我說了許多錯話，但是你們應該寬恕我，因為我喝醉了。陶淵明為什麼這樣說？因為他在這二十首詩裏邊所討論的，是在將要改朝換代，有人請他出去做官，這樣一個仕隱取捨的問題。

這是很嚴重的事，說錯了話就有殺身之禍。因此大家平時有許多話是不敢說的，而在好朋友聚會喝過幾杯酒之後，大家都放鬆了，說話也不再有什麼顧忌。這時候就「父老雜亂言，觴酌失行次」：誰的酒喝光了，誰就倒酒；你給我倒，我給他倒，或自己給自己倒，不再像開始斟酒時那樣按照一定的次序；心裏藏著的話，這時候也就都說出來了。

☞待續

“At seventy, I could follow my heart's desires without transgressing.” (*Analects: On Governing*). Confucius achieved it only when he was in his seventies; however, some people “live together and all day long just engage in meaningless conversations” (*Analects: Duke Ling of Wei*). Some people hung out together, and rarely anything they spoke about throughout the day was proper. They dared to say what others dare not, and the more they spoke, the more indecent they became, and the more prideful they became. That was not being mature but being dissolute.

Therefore, different people in the world had different states and followed different rules. “Fatherly elders spoke randomly” referred to neither the cautious and calculative words spoken when they were sober, nor the nonsense words spoken when they “live together and all day long just engage in meaningless conversations.” Rather, it referred to sincere words among friends.

The last two sentences from the last Drinking poem are as follows: “*I might have uttered much nonsense above, / Thus, may you gentlemen forgive what I said,*” meaning that I am sorry I made many mistakes in what I said, but please forgive me, since I was drunk. Why did Tao Yuanming say that? Because what he discussed in these twenty poems was about making the choice of either taking an official position or retreating—during the transitional period of changing dynasties.

This was a serious matter as a slip of the tongue might get oneself killed. Therefore there were many things that people usually didn't dare to talk about, but after a few glasses of wine at a gathering of friends, everyone relaxed and no longer restrained themselves in their exchanges. “*Fatherly elders spoke randomly, the order of serving wine was a mess.*” Wine was served to whoever had emptied their wine glasses — you served wine to me and I served you or him, or I served myself. Unlike at the beginning when people were served according to a certain order, people at the gathering then spoke up their innermost secrets.

☞To be continued