



## 陶淵明詩講錄（第十七講）（續）

### Lectures on Tao Yuanming's Poems (Lecture seventeen)

(continued)

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魏晉之間和晉宋之間，是中國歷史上政治鬥爭最激烈的時代。擁護新朝？還是擁護舊朝？有名望的讀書人和朝廷中的士大夫往往被迫要選擇一個立場。很多文人都不得善終，比如曹魏時期的詩人嵇康，因為說話得罪了後來成立晉朝的司馬家族：「又每非湯武而薄周孔。」（嵇康，〈與山巨源絕交書〉）就被殺了。

另一個詩人阮籍也很有名，司馬昭想拉攏他，為自己的兒子司馬炎——就是後來篡奪了曹魏政權的晉武帝——娶阮籍的女兒，結成兒女親家。阮籍不願意背棄曹魏，又不敢直接拒絕，就每天喝酒，據說一直醉了六十天不醒，司馬昭對他沒有辦法，只好作罷。

所以，魏晉和晉宋之間有那麼多人酗酒，就是由於這種不得已的政治背景在裏邊。這是我們應該瞭解的。

瞭解了這些政治背景，我們就能體會到，「班荆坐松下，數斟已復醉。父老雜亂言，觴酌失行次」那種人與人之間的友誼和情趣，是多麼難得與可貴的境界，他說那時候是「不覺知有我，安知物為貴」。人之所以有煩惱，就是因為這個「我」字當頭。你把「我」看得很重，心裏就有許多人我利害的計較，就把外物也分出許多貴賤來。

☞待續

During China's Wèi-Jìn and Jìn-Sòng periods, struggle for political power was the most intense and ruthless. Should one support the new or the old dynasty? Reputable scholars or ministers were often forced to take sides and as a result many scholars died a wretched death. For instance: The poet Jī Kāng 嵇康 (one of the Seven Worthies of the Bamboo Grove) during the Cáo-Wèi period was killed because he said something that offended the Sīmǎ 司馬 family, who later founded the Jìn 晉 Dynasty, as it is said "He (Jī Kāng) often spoke ill of Sage Kings like King Tāng of Shāng and King Wǔ of Zhōu, as well as badmouthed Duke Zhou and Confucius" (Jī Kāng, "A Letter of My Terminating Any Relationship with Shan Tao").

Another well-known poet was Ruǎn Ji (210-263). Sīmǎ Zhāo 司馬昭, who controlled the Cáo-Wèi Dynasty, wanted to win Ruǎn over by having his son Sīmǎ Yán 司馬炎 marry Ruǎn's daughter so that they could be linked as in-laws. Ruǎn was unwilling to betray Cáo-Wèi, but he did not dare to refuse the request directly, so he just drank every day, and it was said that he got drunk for sixty days without regaining his sobriety. Sīmǎ Zhāo had no choice but to give up his plan. Sīmǎ Yán later usurped the Cáo-Wèi throne and became Emperor Wǔ of Jìn.

Therefore, there were so many people drinking wine during the Wèi-Jìn and Jìn-Sòng periods, and it was because of the oppressive political situation at that time. This is the historical background that we should be aware of.

Having known this, we can understand how rare and precious Táo's feelings about friendship and his interactions with those people are as described in the following: *Sat on the ground with paved grass under a pine tree, / Became drunk again after being served wine a few times. / Fatherly elders spoke randomly, / The order of wine-serving was a mess.* He said that "Unaware there is a self, / Much less other things to cherish!" People have afflictions because of the notion of "self"—which they carry with and take so seriously. With so many concerns over gain and loss, self and others, benefit and harm, you discriminate things as "noble" and "lowly."

☞To be continued