

若植森林，載諸荊棘，應念偈云：

植此森林，
當願眾生，
除瞋恚心，
長菩提樹。

凡催耕牛，不得打罵，應教云發菩提心。家有子姪，應常教誡，不得打魚撈蝦，自亦不得遊獵，不得放火焚燒山林同前（居庵第四）。

☞待續

When encountering a drought, one can recite at home the *Avatamsaka Sutra* or the *Sutra of Praying for Rain*.

When planting trees and clearing thistles and thorns, one should recite the following verse:

*When planting trees in the forest,
I vow that all beings rid themselves of
Anger and ill will in their hearts,
And plant the tree of Bodhi.*

When driving an ox that is plowing the land, avoid scolding or beating it; rather, one should exhort it to give rise to the Bodhi resolve. When in the company of one's children, or nieces and nephews, one should constantly teach and exhort them not to catch fish or shrimp, hunt for fun, or set fires burning down groves or forests—such prohibition is as mentioned in the previous text (Section 4. Dwelling at a Monastery).

☞To be continued

陶淵明詩講錄（第十八講）

Lectures on Tao Yuanming's Poems (Lecture Eighteen)

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貧居乏人工，
灌木荒余宅。
班班有翔鳥，
寂寂無行跡。
宇宙一何悠，
人生少至百。
歲月相催逼，
鬢邊早已白。
若不委窮達，
素抱深可惜。

*Living a poor life, I cannot afford any workers,
Causing my house to be overgrown with shrubs.
Vividly are birds flying in the sky;
Lonely is my house that rarely anyone visits.
The universe is eternal but
The lives of people rarely reach a hundred.
Time keeps pressing relentlessly on me,
Causing my temples to have grown gray hair.
Let me worry not about poverty or glory,
To go against my ideals would be quite a pity.*

頭兩句，「貧居乏人工，灌木荒余宅」，這是從實在的景物寫起的。陶淵明家裡很窮，沒錢僱人來為他工作，結果家門前就長了許多灌木。他說這灌木使他住宅變得很荒蕪。你要知道，鳥類最喜歡草木

The first two sentences, “*Living a poor life, I cannot afford any workers, / Causing my house to be overgrown with shrubs*” were written according to what the scenery looked like. Tao Yuanming's family was too poor to hire workers to take care of their courtyard; as a result, his front yard was then thickly populated with shrubs and bushes.

茂盛的地方，因為在那些地方可以找到草籽、小蟲等食物，因此他家門前是「班班有翔鳥，寂寂無行跡」。「寂寂無行跡」是說沒有人來看望他。

事實是陶淵明出身士大夫家族，親戚朋友都是讀書做官的人，現在他選擇了種田，離開了他原來所屬的那個社會階層，不但親戚朋友不來看他，連他妻子家人都不能諒解他。因此在他門前來往的，只有那些飛來飛去的鳥。

為什麼是「班班」？「班班」是分明的樣子，在車水馬龍的大街上，你能如此分明地看到一隻隻鳥嗎？那些鳥早就被大街上嘈雜的聲音嚇跑了。只有在荒涼的草木叢中，你才能從容地觀察一隻鳥。

對於一個詩人來說，往往是「情動於中，而形於言」，詩歌中的每一個字都傳達出詩人的感受。陶淵明為什麼說他看那些鳥看得那麼分明？第一是因為他的門前很荒涼，只有飛來飛去的鳥；第二是因為他的心裡很寂寞，沒有人來看望他，也沒有人從他門前走過。這「班班有翔鳥」，其實是要為下一句「寂寂無行跡」作一個相反的陪襯。

陶詩在章法上有很多不同的變化，宋朝的陳師道曾讚美他：「淵明不為詩，寫其胸中之妙爾。」（《後山詩話》）陶淵明雖然給後世留下許多好詩，但他不是像一般人那樣，找個好題目為了作詩，或者作詩為了出名。他只是寫他自己內心之中，微妙的感情和思想的變化。這些思想感情怎樣活動，他就把它們怎樣寫下來了，他能夠把那種「情動於中」的感情表達得恰到好處。感情的變化是豐富的，所以陶詩章法的變化也是豐富的。

☞待續

He said the shrubs made his house look deserted. You must know that birds like places with luxuriant grass and trees because it is easy to find grass seeds and little bugs as food. Therefore, in front of his house is described as: “*Vividly are birds flying in the sky; / Lonely is my house that rarely anyone visits.*” “Lonely is my house that rarely anyone visits” means that no one goes to see him.

Tao Yuanming actually came from a noble and well-educated family. His relatives and friends were all scholars and government officials. But he chose to leave that life behind and take up farming, distancing himself from his original social class. As a result, not only did his friends and relatives stop visiting him, even his wife and family couldn't understand or forgive his decision. In the end, the only visitors he had were the birds flying freely through the skies—“*bān bān,*” a vivid image of their fluttering flight.

Why does the poem say “vividly” (*bān bān*)? The word “vividly” means something is striking and clearly visible. On a bustling street, can you clearly see a bird? No—the noise and crowds would have long since scared them away. Only in a quiet, undisturbed place overgrown with shrubs can one leisurely observe birds in flight.

A poet often expresses inner feelings through external imagery. In poetry, every word reflects the poet's emotions. So why could Tao Yuanming see the birds so clearly? First, because his courtyard was utterly still—only the birds moved about. Second, because he felt deeply lonely; few people ever came to visit him. No one even passed by his home, let alone stopped in.

The line “Vividly are birds flying in the sky” is actually meant to contrast with the next line: “Lonely is my house that rarely anyone visits.” Together, they form a poignant image of outer stillness and inner solitude.

Tao Yuanming's poetry features a wide range of literary techniques and expressive shifts. Chen Shidao of the Song Dynasty once praised him, saying, “Yuanming is not merely writing poetry; he is expressing the wonder within his heart” (Houshan's Notes on Poets and Poetry). Although Tao Yuanming left behind many celebrated poems for later generations, he was not like ordinary poets who search for clever topics or write for fame. He simply recorded the subtle stirrings of his heart and mind. Whatever he felt or thought, he put into words just as it was. He had a remarkable ability to convey his emotions with honesty and depth. Because his inner feelings were so rich and varied, his poetry is likewise full of nuance and transformation.

☞To be continued