



評太監魏忠賢 (續)

REFLECTIONS IN WATER AND MIRRORS: TURNING BACK THE TIDE OF DESTINY
A CRITIQUE OF WEI ZHONGXIAN (CONTINUED)

宣化上人 講於1986年5月7日 LECTURED BY THE VENERABLE MASTER HUA ON MAY 7, 1986
無盡根 英譯 ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY INEXHAUSTIBLE ROOT

魏忠賢這一班妖魔鬼怪作怪更大，沒收全國百姓的房子兩千多所，改為魏忠賢的廟，以木、泥或銅為材料，各處供了魏忠賢的神像，尊魏忠賢如帝王。

善惡到頭終有報，熹宗死後，崇禎皇帝（思宗）知道魏忠賢禍國殃民，為了為民除害，把他殺了，大快人心。

評曰：

君王無道 懦弱寡能
群魔亂舞 縱橫宮廷
害忠誤國 正義難伸
權閹肆暴 遺臭古今

註解：

「君王無道，懦弱寡能」：熹宗無道，不懂治國之道，懦弱沒有主張，能力寡少。

「群魔亂舞，縱橫宮廷」：妖魔鬼怪都出現了，有心理變態的現象，在宮廷中不守規矩，亂七八糟。

「害忠誤國，正義難伸」：魏賊忠賢，害忠良，沒有正義，把國家的政事也耽誤了，正義難以伸張。

「權閹肆暴，遺臭古今」：太監亂用權力，肆暴人民。古今有正義感的人，都會罵他。

The opportunists felt threatened and shamelessly flattered Wei by forming a clique to support him and be his “running dogs”. These “running dogs” were even more corrupt than Wei. They confiscated over two thousand private homes to make shrines for Wei. They honored Wei as if he were an emperor, placing wooden, clay, or bronze statues of him on the altars.

As it is said, both the good and the evil eventually receive their just deserts. After Emperor Xi passed away, Emperor Chongzhen (also known as Si) realized how much Wei had harmed the nation and the people, and ordered his execution. The bane was gone, and people were relieved and overjoyed.

A critique says:

**Weak and incompetent, the emperor lacked virtue.
Demons manipulated the imperial court.
With the loyal banished and the nation in peril,
How can justice be done?
The bloody hands of the powerful eunuch
Will stink far into the future.**

Commentary:

Weak and incompetent, the emperor lacked virtue. Emperor Xi was without the Way and was ignorant of statesmanship in ruling the nation. He was weak, indecisive, and incompetent.

Demons manipulated the imperial court. All the demons and ghosts in disguise came out. Those of unscrupulous character were acting up and making a mess in the court.

With the loyal banished and the nation in peril, how can justice be done? Wei the Thief, the “Loyal and Worthy One,” was totally devoid of any sense of righteousness. He murdered those who were truly loyal and worthy and created political chaos in the nation. There was no way to restore justice.

The bloody hands of the powerful eunuch will stink far into the future. The eunuch abused his power and preyed on the people. Anyone with a sense of righteousness will reproach him.



又說偈曰：

歷朝君主重德行
因果錯亂報子孫
正義凜然鬼神敬
陰謀取巧妖怪親
魏賊忠賢竊國政
思宗明智誅禍根
個中消息真說法
迷人不覺墮沉淪

註解：

「歷朝君主重德行」：歷代做皇帝的一定要有德行。

「因果錯亂報子孫」：錯亂因果，子孫被人欺侮。

「正氣凜然鬼神敬」：他若是個有正義的明君，鬼神也會尊敬他。

「陰謀取巧妖怪親」：他不做光明磊落之事，妖怪也都親近他。

「魏賊忠賢竊國政」：魏賊忠賢偷竊國家朝政。

「思宗明智誅禍根」：崇禎皇帝是明朝最後的皇帝。他較明理，有智慧，把魏忠賢殺了，為國民去除禍根。

思宗前生出家修道，方丈和尚常給他很多氣受，他做沙彌時就死了。死後方丈吩咐師兄弟們用馬拖，但是師兄弟們不忍心這樣做，發慈悲心把他埋了。本來方丈和尚想用馬拖屍，是希望他能了苦，來生做皇帝時，有道也有福。結果師兄弟們埋葬了他，未能令他了苦，故思宗做皇帝時有道無福。

「個中消息真說法」：古往今來，歷朝的因果報應，都實實在在地在說法。明白了就是說法；不明白就跟著富貴榮華去跑。

「迷人不覺墮沉淪」：迷人不覺悟，所以自己墮落到地獄去。

(「評太監魏忠賢」文完)

Another verse says:

Throughout history, virtue has been essential for emperors. Mistakes in cause and effect bring retribution to one's descendants. Even ghosts and spirits revere one who is on the right path. Weirdoes and goblins appear when opportunists scheme in the dark. Wei the Thief, "Loyal and Worthy," usurped the nation's power. Emperor Si, wise and clear, eradicated that scourge. There is true Dharma in this lesson. Failing to awaken, one will fall into the realms below.

Commentary:

Throughout history, virtue has been essential for emperors. For all the emperors in history, it's been essential to have virtue.

Mistakes in cause and effect bring retribution to one's descendants. As a result of your errors in cause and effect, your descendants will be bullied.

Even ghosts and spirits revere one who is on the right path. If one is an upright and clear-headed ruler, even ghosts and spirits will honor him.

Weirdoes and goblins appear when opportunists scheme in the dark. But does not have a clear conscience, one will attract demons and ghosts.

Wei the Thief, "Loyal and Worthy," usurped the nation's power. Emperor Si, wise and clear, eradicated that scourge. Emperor Si was the last ruler of Ming dynasty. He was more reasonable and wiser and had Wei killed, therefore ridding the nation of misfortune.

In his previous life, Emperor Si had cultivated the Way as a monk. His teacher gave him a lot of flack. He died when he was still a shramanera (novice). After he died the Abbot (his teacher) ordered that his corpse be dragged by horses, but his Dharma brothers could not bear to do it. Instead they buried him out of compassion. The Abbot had ordered them to have his corpse dragged in the hopes that it would end his suffering and that when he became an emperor in the future he would be endowed with both virtue and blessings. Since his Dharma brothers buried him instead, his suffering did not end. That was why although Emperor Si had virtue, he lacked blessings.

There is true Dharma in this lesson. Through history all the retributions of cause and effect are speaking very down-to-earth Dharma. If you understand it, then it is Dharma; if not, then you will continue pursuing wealth and glory.

Failing to awaken, one will fall into the realms below. Confused people fail to wake up, and as a result they fall into the hells.

(End of "A Critique of Zhongxian Wei")