



陶淵明詩講錄《續》

LECTURES ON TAO YUANMING'S POEMS (CONTINUED)

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第十講

《飲酒詩》我們從一開始講下來，陶淵明先是說他對人生問題的思考，然後他決心回到田園隱居。「結廬在人境」那一首，是他決心歸隱後內心中所達到的一個境界。上一次我們講的「行止千萬端」那一首是說，每當改朝換代的時候，很多人會做出愚蠢的選擇，而他自己決心追隨「夏黃公」和「綺里季」這兩個秦、漢之間有名的隱士，走一條歸隱的道路。

下邊的第七首和第八首，我們可以連起來看。因為，前邊幾首所寫的都是思想中的問題、考慮和決定，而第七、第八首寫的是他決心歸隱田園以後的生活，結合了不少他當時生活中的情趣。現在我把這兩首詩讀一遍

:

秋菊有佳色，裊露掇其英。
汎此忘憂物，遠我遺世情。
一觴雖獨進，杯盡壺自傾。
日入群動息，歸鳥趨林鳴。
嘯傲東軒下，聊復得此生。

青松在東園，眾草沒其姿。
凝霜殄異類，卓然見高枝。
連林人不覺，獨樹眾乃奇。
提壺挂寒柯，遠望時復爲。
吾生夢幻間，何事絀塵羈？
你們注意到沒有，第七首他是從

LECTURE TEN

From the beginning of the “Drinking” series until now, Tao Yuanming first talked about his reflections on the problems of life, and then about his resolve to return to his farm to stay in seclusion. The poem, *I build a hut in the human realm*, indicated his mental state after he had made up his mind to return to seclusion. The last poem that we discussed, *There are a thousand myriad ways to act*, said that whenever there was a change of regimes, many people would make foolish choices. However, he himself was determined to emulate Master Xiahuang and Qi Liji, the two well-known hermits who lived during the transition period between the Qin and Han Dynasties, and chose the path of seclusion.

The following seventh and eighth poems can be put together. This is because the first six poems relate his deliberations on the problems that he faced and how he arrived at his resolutions, while the seventh and eighth poems are about his lifestyle after he had returned to his farm and the many pleasant moments that he experienced. Now, we shall read these two poems:

*Autumn chrysanthemums are lovely.
I pick the petals covered with dewdrops,
And float them in this Carefree Drink,
Which encourages me to leave the world.
I drink my cup in solitude,
And when it's empty, I refill it from my flask.
At sunset, everything quiets down.
Chirping birds head back to the woods.
I whistle contentedly by the east window,
For incidentally I have found my life again.*

*A green pine stands in the east garden,
Its beauty is hidden by dense vegetation.
When frost destroys all the other plants,
Its lofty branches are then revealed.*



秋菊開始的，第八首他是從青松開始的？我以前講過，陶詩裡常用一些形象來表示象徵的意思，最常用的形象就是菊花、松樹和飛鳥。現在這「秋菊」和「青松」不只是象喻，而且也是他生活中果然實有的景色。他是把他生活中的實有之物，和他精神上的比喻、象徵結合起來寫的。

「秋菊有佳色」，是說秋天的菊花有美麗的顏色。這麼說也不是不可以，但你要注意這個「色」，有的時候不只是「顏色」的色；你送你的朋友遠行，他那種即將離別出發的樣子是「行色」。佛教的經典裡邊說，「色即是空，空即是色」；那個「色」不僅指顏色，凡是宇宙間一切有形的現象都是「色」。所以「秋菊有佳色」是說，秋菊有很美麗的姿態、形狀，當然也包括顏色。總之是說它開得非常好看。「佳」，就是好。大家都說陶詩的語言「簡淨」，你看他根本不用很多雕琢修飾的形容詞，只用一個「佳」就顯得很好。他說：「山氣日夕佳」，山上的煙嵐之氣，在黃昏的時候遠望起來那真是好！這個「佳」，不但包含了那所有的煙嵐之氣，而且還包含有詩人對這美好景色的一種喜愛之情。「秋菊有佳色」也是如此，這菊花在陶淵明的眼睛裡看起來，是好看--他只用一個「佳」字來形容就完全夠了。

但陶淵明還不止於眼睛看見這美麗的菊花而已，他還「裛露掇其英」。「裛」是沾溼，就是說，菊花瓣上還沾有露水；「掇」是採或拾的意思。他說，秋菊那麼可愛，所以我就把帶著露水的菊花花瓣採下來了。採下花瓣做什麼？他還不是說插到花瓶裡去欣賞，他說是：「汎此忘憂物，遠我遺世

*Among the other trees, it is not noticeable,
But when solitary, it is admired by all.
I lift my flask and hang it on a cold branch,
Gazing afar now and then.
Though born in the midst of dream illusion,
Why should I be bound by the mundane dust?*

Have you noticed that the seventh poem begins with the autumn chrysanthemum while the eighth poem begins with the green pine? I have said previously that Tao's poems often use imagery as symbolic illustrations, and the most commonly used are the chrysanthemum, pine tree and flying birds. Here, the "autumn chrysanthemum" and "green pine" are not merely used in a metaphoric sense; in fact they are actual scenes that he came across. To compose his poems, he made use of worldly objects as analogies and symbols to portray his state of mind.

The line "*Autumn chrysanthemums are lovely*" means that chrysanthemum flowers in the autumn have beautiful colors. It is not incorrect to interpret this line as such. However, note that the character 'se' may not necessarily mean 'colors'. When you send your friend off on a long journey, his expression at the time of parting is called 'xing se'. A Buddhist Sutra says, "*Form itself is emptiness; emptiness itself is form.*" In the latter, 'se' does not only denote color; it refers to all things in the universe that have shape and form. Therefore, the line "*Autumn chrysanthemums are lovely*" means that autumn chrysanthemums have beautiful appearances and shapes, and this naturally includes colors. In short, the chrysanthemum blooms are very beautiful to behold. The character 'jia' means 'good' or 'fine'. Everybody says that the language used in Tao's poems is simple and concise. He did not have to resort to flowery language. Just with the one character 'jia' the poem turns out very well. He said, "The mountain air is lovely as the sun sets." This means that the mist on the mountain at sunset is spectacular when viewed from afar. In this case, the character 'jia' does not only refer to the mist; it also alludes to the poet's delight on encountering such beautiful scenery. Similarly, the line "*Autumn chrysanthemums are lovely*" carries that connotation. In the eyes of Tao Yuanming, the chrysanthemum flowers are a lovely sight and are aptly described by the character 'jia'.

However, not only did Tao Yuanming regard the beauty of the chrysanthemums, but he also "*picked the petals covered with dewdrops.*" The character 'yi' means 'moisten', so the chrysanthemum petals were moistened with dewdrops. 'Duo' means 'to pluck' or 'pick'. What Tao meant was, "The autumn chrysanthemums are so lovely and that's why I plucked a few petals covered with dewdrops." What did he do with the petals? It was not for putting into a flower vase to admire. Rather, it



情。」這個「忘」字有平聲和仄聲的兩個讀音，在這裡讀「王」音

，從聲律上說比較好聽。這個「汎」字，我們書上引了《昭明文選》中李善的注解，他說《毛詩》上有這麼兩句：「微我無酒，以敖以遊。」這是指《詩經·邶風·柏舟》的第一段：「汎彼柏舟，亦汎其流。耿耿不寐，如有隱憂，微我無酒，以敖以遊。」《毛詩》裡邊說這是寫一個學問品行很好的君子，沒有得到朝廷的任用，反而受到小人的欺壓，因此感到很不得志。他說，我的心就像那柏舟漂在水面上一樣不安定，每天晚上人家都睡了，可我的頭腦還是很清醒，不能成眠，就好像內心有很深的痛苦。他還說，並不是我沒有酒，不能去遨遊來解除這些痛苦。

為什麼提到酒？因為中國人相信酒是可以幫助人忘憂的。比如曹操的《短歌行》就說：「何以解憂，唯有杜康。」「杜康」是個人名，據說是發明造酒的那個人，因此也常常用他的名字來指代酒。一個人喝醉了酒，就把所有的憂愁都解除掉了。那麼陶淵明說「汎此忘憂物」是什麼意思？「汎」同「泛」，就是漂浮在水面上

。「此」指的是什麼呢？就是前邊說到的那個「有佳色」的菊花。他是說，把採下來的那些帶著露水的菊花瓣，撒在他要喝的酒上。這種作法，也是中國古代的一個習俗。中國的古人每到陰曆九月九日要喝菊花酒，就是把菊花瓣放在酒裡一起喝。菊花是九月開花，所以中國北方有的地方把菊花叫做「九花。」「九月九日飲九花酒」，據說可以使人長壽。因為「九」的發音同「久」字相同。

☞待續

was to “float them in this Carefree Drink, which encourages me to leave the world.” The character ‘wang’ [‘forget’] has a level tone as well as a deflected tone. Here, it is pronounced as ‘wang’ [‘king’] because it sounds better. As for the character ‘fan’, we shall refer to Li Shan’s commentary in *Zhao Ming’s Literary Selections*. He said that in *Mao’s Collection of Songs*, there are two lines that state: “It is not that I don’t have wine to drown my sorrow, nor that I have no place to seek for pleasure.” This is referring to the first stanza of “The Cypress Wood Boat” [*Book of Songs: The Airs from the State Bei*] that reads: “The cypress wood boat is floundering on the river / In the wake of a strong current / It disturbs me so much that I find it hard to sleep / As if I am tormented by some great affliction. / It is not that I don’t have wine to drown my sorrow / Nor that I have no place to seek for pleasure.” It is explained in *Mao’s Collection of Songs* that this stanza refers to a learned gentleman of good character who was not appointed by the imperial court but instead was bullied by others, and hence felt that he was badly betrayed. This gentleman said, “My mind is uneasy just like a boat of cypress wood floating on the water. Every night, when everyone is asleep, I am still wide-awake and unable to rest. My soul is suffering deeply.” He also said, “It is not that I don’t have any wine to drink, nor that I have nowhere to go for pleasure to relieve my suffering.”

Why did Tao mention wine? It’s because the Chinese believe that wine can help people to forget their worries. For example, consider these two lines in Cao Cao’s poem, *A Fast Song*: “What can help me to dispel my worries? Nothing but the wine Du Kang.” ‘Du Kang’ is the name of a person. It is said that he was the one who invented the process of making wine. That’s why his name was often used to represent wine. When a person is drunk, he is oblivious of all his worries. So what did Tao Yuanming mean when he said, “And float them in this Carefree Drink”? The character ‘fan’ means to float on water. What does ‘ci’ allude to? It refers to the lovely chrysanthemum flowers. This means that he plucked some chrysanthemum petals that were wet with dewdrops and sprinkled them on his wine. This is also an ancient Chinese custom. On the ninth day of the ninth lunar month, the ancient Chinese would put chrysanthemum petals into their wine and drink it together. Chrysanthemums start blooming in the ninth lunar month and that’s why in some places in northern China, chrysanthemums are also called ‘Ninth Flowers.’ It is said that drinking ninth flower wine on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month promotes longevity. This is because the pronunciation of the character ‘nine’ [jiu] is identical to that of ‘long’ [jiu].

☞To be continued