



【水鏡回天錄白話解】

REFLECTIONS IN THE WATER-MIRROR:

TURNING THE TIDE OF DESTINY

包龍圖

LONG-TU BAO

宣公上人講於一九八六年六月廿八日

LECTURED BY THE VENERABLE MASTER HUA ON JUNE 28, 1986

薛麗梅 英譯 ENGLISH TRANSLATED BY ECHO HSUEH



姓包名拯，字希仁，北宋合肥人。性剛直，不苟笑。所謂「包拯笑，黃河清。」面黑心赤，辦事嚴正。明鏡高懸，拯救民苦，故稱為包青天。

曾有誓言：「若斷錯案，遠報兒女近報身。」進士出身，宋仁宗授龍圖閣直學士。立朝剛毅，不避權貴，鐵面無私，不徇人情。

王子犯法，與民同罪。法律之前，人人平等。故奸臣畏之，佞臣避之，忠臣敬之，直臣效之，古今之清官也。

每個朝代裏都有忠臣和奸臣，有佞臣和直臣。忠臣是忠於國；奸臣是奸於民，害老百姓；佞臣就是專門溜虛拍馬，講話不講真話，不講直話，就是逢迎上司。

包公的相貌很特別，黑臉，是有來歷的人，不是一般

Essay:

His surname was Bao, and his first name Zhen; he also had another name, Xiren. Bao was from Hefei in the Northern Song dynasty. He was upright and outspoken and did not casually joke around. There is a saying, "Once Bao Zhen laughed, the Yellow River would be clear." With a black face and red heart, he was proper and righteous in his work. Like a bright mirror suspended high up, he saved beings from sufferings. That's why he was called 'Upright Magistrate Bao'.

He had a vow that if he ever wrongfully judged a case, the karmic retribution will fall on his children in the future, or on him right away. He was a successful candidate in the highest imperial examination and was later appointed a righteous scholar in the Imperial Cabinet by Emperor Ren in the Song dynasty. Resolute and steadfast in the imperial government, he didn't avoid the authorities and was impartial and incorruptible without giving in to human sympathy.

If the prince violated the law, he would be condemned the same as if he were a civilian. Each and every one was equal before the law. Therefore, treacherous court officials were afraid of him, obsequious officials avoided him, loyal officials respected him, and righteous officials emulated him. He was an honest and upright official in history.

Commentary:

There were always loyal officials and treacherous ones, and obsequious officials and righteous ones in each and every dynasty. The loyal officials were loyal to the country, and the treacherous ones were wicked and harmed the civilians. The obsequious ones always lied and flattered without being straightforward, trying to curry the favor of their superiors.

Bao Zhen had a unique appearance with his black face, and he had an inimitable



人能比得了，所以他的作風與人不同。他是宋朝一位名臣，做到龍圖閣直學士，也就是最高法院的院長，司法部的部長之類。他能斷事如神，就像一面明鏡似的，誰也瞞不了他。包拯公名拯，拯救人的拯，字希仁，希望他做事皆合乎仁義道德的仁，能以明白仁，是宋朝的安徽合肥縣人。安徽省出很多有名的人，好像清朝李鴻章也是合肥人，在清朝時也是一位很有勢力的大員。

包拯的性情剛直，不苟言笑，不隨便講話或嘻笑，是一位很嚴肅的人。他性情特別耿直果斷，能當機立斷，什麼屈直，他一聽就知道，誰也瞞不了他。所以一般俗語傳說：「包拯笑，黃河清。」包拯一笑，黃河就會清了。為什麼黃河不清呢？就因為包拯沒有笑。他的面是黑色，心是紅色，言其很熱心，做什麼事都非常嚴正，如明鏡高懸能照了一切，拯救老百姓的苦難。所以誰有什麼冤屈，經過他一審判，一切就真相大白，一般人皆稱他為包青天。

他曾經發過誓願，「我若為人斷錯案件，遠報在兒女身上，近報在自己身上。」他做過進士，宋仁宗授他龍圖閣直學士。他很剛毅，鐵面無私，在朝廷中不隨乎人群，不避權貴，不循人情。他說：「王子犯法，與民同罪。」法律之前人人平等，要大公無私一律平等。奸臣畏懼他，佞臣遠避他，忠臣敬佩他，直臣效法他：他是古今的清官。

贊曰：

天地正氣 人民公心
四海稱頌 萬眾咸欽
黑面無私 赤膽鞠躬

background. That's why he was different from others. He was a noted official in the Song dynasty and was appointed a righteous scholar in the Imperial Cabinet, which would be like the chief justice of the Supreme Court or the head of the Department of Justice. He judged cases with great accuracy, just like a bright mirror that could reflect everything; no one could deceive him. His name Zhen meant "to save" as in to save people. His other name Xiren meant "hoping whatever he did would accord with humaneness," that one could understand the humaneness in his verdicts. He was from Hefei in Anhui province. Many famous people were from Anhui, for instance, Hongzhang Li in the Qing dynasty was also from Hefei, and he was also a high-ranking official with great influence in Qing dynasty.

Bao Zhen had an upright and outspoken nature. He didn't talk or laugh casually. He was a serious person with an honest and frank temperament and his actions were decisive. Upon hearing people talk, he would immediately know what was going on and no one could deceive them. That's why there's a legend that "Once Bao Zhen laughed, the Yellow River would be clear." Why wasn't the Yellow River clear? It was because Bao Zhen didn't laugh. His face was black, and his heart was red. It also meant that he was enthusiastic, and his actions were solemn and just. It's like a bright mirror hung up high that can reflect everything and save the civilians from sufferings and difficulties. Anyone who had been wrongly accused would get their case cleared up after it came before him. That's why he was called, "Upright Magistrate Bao."

He made a vow that if he ever wrongfully judged a case, the karmic retribution will fall on his children in the future, or on him right away. He was a successful candidate in the highest imperial examination, and later he was appointed a righteous scholar at Imperial Cabinet by Emperor Ren in the Song dynasty. Resolute and steadfast, he was impartial and incorruptible. In the imperial court, he didn't follow the crowd, avoid the authorities, or submit to human sympathy. He said, "A prince who violates the law will be condemned just the same as if he were a civilian." Each and every one was equal before the law, and one should be impartial and selfless. Therefore, the treacherous court officials were terrified of him, obsequious officials avoided him, loyal officials respected him, and righteous officials learned from him. He was an honest and upright official in history.

Praise:

**The proper energy in the universe,
An impartial and selfless person in the minds of the people,
Praised and revered by the multitudes throughout the four seas,
Black-faced and unselfish,
He exerted himself to the utmost with a sincere mind.
Honest and frank without flattering,
He penetrated ancient and modern times with proper energy.**



耿直不阿 氣貫古今

「天地正氣，人民公心」：包公是代表天地的正氣，有一股正氣才有這樣的人。他是老百姓心目中的一位大公無私，至正不偏的一個人。

「四海稱頌，萬眾咸欽」：到處稱頌他是清官，所有萬民咸皆恭敬他。

「黑面無私，赤膽鞠躬」：他的面雖然黑，可是沒有私心。他對朝廷天子赤膽相照，恭敬承事，鞠躬盡瘁，死而後已。

「耿直不阿，氣貫古今」：他很耿直，一點也不阿諛奉承。他這一股正氣是通古貫今。

又說偈曰：

明鏡高懸包青天	萬民愛戴解仇冤
聽訟無訟是非辨	審案有案曲直宣
防微杜漸彌禍亂	治國安邦法律全
宋代名臣居首位	政海賢達中外傳

「明鏡高懸包青天」：包公審案猶如明鏡高懸，鑑徹無誤，冤情大白如雲撥天日。

「萬民愛戴解仇冤」：他把人民冤枉的事都解開了。

「聽訟無訟是非辨」：孔子說：「聽訟，吾由人也，必也，使無訟乎！」聽人打官司，我和人是一樣；我一定叫老百姓打過這一次官司，以後就不再打了。所以聽訟無訟。包公亦如是，他令老百姓在他那兒打過一次官司以後再不打官司了，是非皆分辨得很清楚。

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Commentary:

The Honorable Bao represented **the proper energy in the universe**. This kind of person only existed when there was such a proper energy. He was **an impartial and selfless** and unprejudiced **person in the minds of the people**. **Praised and revered by the multitudes throughout the four seas**. He was praised everywhere as an honest and upright official; all the people respected him. **Black-faced and unselfish, he exerted himself to the utmost with a sincere mind**. Even though he had a black face, he was not selfish. He served the emperor with a sincere and loyal heart and with reverence. He exerted himself to the utmost till the day he died. **Honest and frank without flattering, he penetrated ancient and modern times with proper energy**. He was an honest and frank person and did not flatter at all. His proper energy could pass through ancient and modern times.

Another Verse:

**Upright magistrate Bao hung a bright mirror up high.
The populace loved and esteemed him for clearing up
wrong charges.**

**After he heard a dispute, the dispute would cease,
for he distinguished right from wrong.**

**He'd investigate the case and sort out true from false.
Erroneous ideas were checked at the outset to prevent
future disasters.**

**His comprehensive administration of the laws brought
peace and security to the nation.**

**Chief among the renowned officials of the Song dynasty,
His political prominence was well known worldwide.**

Commentary:

Upright magistrate Bao hung a bright mirror up high. It was like a bright mirror hung up high when Honored Bao tried a case, for everything was judged clearly without any error. Wrongful judgments got sorted out like the sun revealed through the clouds. **The populace loved and esteemed him for clearing up wrong charges**. He resolved all unjust judgments for the people.

After he heard a dispute, the dispute would cease, for he distinguished right from wrong. Confucius said, "Listening to a dispute, I was like the others. The dispute must be put to rest." His meaning was, "I would be like the others if I just listened to a lawsuit. I had to stop people from going to court after this one time."

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