



【水鏡回天錄白話解】

REFLECTIONS IN THE WATER-MIRROR: TURNING THE TIDE OF DESTINY



丁蘭 DING LAN

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漢代時人，雖年幼而稟性至孝。不幸雙親早逝，日夜思親，無以盡其孝懷，所謂「子欲養而親不待」。故刻父母肖像，供奉堂上，朝夕禮拜，如同親在。

娶妻乃告曰：「祭祀公婆，盡媳孝道。」時間久，其妻生厭心，偷以針刺木像，發洩怨氣。丁蘭回家，禮拜木像，見像流淚，不知何故？乃問妻曰：「木像為何流淚？汝作不孝之事乎？」其妻始知生大慚愧，坦白承認以針刺像事。丁蘭怒曰：「如此不孝，當驅出門；但汝知悔，姑且原諒。如再犯此種過錯，絕不寬恕！」

丁蘭之孝心，感動其妻恭敬木像，始終不敢輕辱木像。至誠感物，化導人心，為後世之模範，作前人之表率。孝念大矣哉！

古人說：「精誠所至，金石為開」。這兩句話說，咱們人無論做任何事，都要盡善其事，要有真誠的心。現在這裏講這個丁蘭，就是最好的證據；也就是精誠所致，感應道交。

Essay:

He lived during the time of the Han Dynasty. Even in his youth, he was extremely filial by nature. Unfortunately, both his parents passed away early, and he yearned for his parents day and night. It was impossible to fulfill his filial intentions. It has been said, "The children want to care for their parents, but the parents are gone." So he carved out images of his parents, placed them in the hall; and bowed to them in the morning and night as if they were still living.

When he married, he told his wife, "You should make offerings to your in-laws and perform your filial duties as a daughter-in-law." At length, his wife grew tired of this routine. She secretly pricked the wooden statues to show her resentment. When Ding Lan returned home and bowed to the wooden images, he saw the wooden statues shedding tears and could not understand why. So he asked his wife, "Why are there tears trickling down from the image? Did you do anything unfilial?" His wife began to feel deep shame and remorse, and honestly admitted that she had used a needle to prick the statues.

Ding Lan said indignantly, "For such unfiliality, I should drive you out of the house. But, since you feel regret, I will forgive you. If you commit this kind of wrong again, I will not excuse you anymore."

Ding Lan's filial heart moved his wife to honor the wooden images and she never dared to slight or ridicule them again. Utmost sincerity can influence inanimate objects and transform and guide the minds of people. He served as a model for generations to come, and was a representative of those who came before. Great is this form of filiality.

Commentary:



「丁蘭，漢代時人」，這丁蘭是漢代時候的人。「雖年幼而稟性至孝」，他這個人生來就誠心，很孝順；因為他孝順，所以對父母就特別重視。「不幸雙親早逝，日夜思親，無以盡其孝懷」，可是很不幸的，所謂「樹欲靜而風不止，子欲養而親不待」，他父母很早就逝世了。

在這個情形之下，他日夜想他父母，那麼想得吃飯也不香了，穿衣服也不暖了，睡覺也睡不著了；所謂「寢不安席，食不甘味」。那麼這樣想久了，他想：這也不是個辦法，要想出一個善巧方便的方法，來解決他這個思親的問題。

想來想去，也想不出一個妥善的辦法——在漢代的時候，也沒有照相機，畫像的也很少；於是乎他就回憶父母的樣子，用木頭刻他父母兩個的肖像，供在家裏的堂裏邊。「故刻父母肖像，供奉堂上，朝夕禮拜，如同親在。」所以他就朝夕都叩頭頂禮父母，上香上供，以減少他想父母的這種痛苦。

「娶妻乃告曰：祭祀公婆，盡媳孝道。」等到他娶太太的時候，那麼他把這種責任交給他太太，告訴他太太說，我家裏現在有我父母的壁像，你應該很誠心的替我禮拜供養。那麼當時他太太也就答應他，「時間久，其妻生厭心，偷以針刺木像，發洩怨氣。」可是答應他時間一久了，她就生厭惡，因為這只是一個木頭像，她天天這麼樣的叩頭頂禮的，覺得沒有意思。於是乎她就以針來偷著刺這個木像，她以為這就洩露自己這種的怨氣啦；想不到這木像會告狀，想不到這木像居然就會流淚了。

「丁蘭回家，禮拜木像，見像流淚，不知何故？」丁蘭回來，禮拜這木像，就看見了這木像都流眼淚；這眼淚不是流一滴兩滴的，也就是像珍珠那麼一串一串的往下流。於是乎他就知道這裏有問題啦！「乃問妻曰：木像為何流淚？汝作不孝之事乎？」就對他的太太說：「這木像為什麼會流淚呢？大概是你不孝順，不恭敬，沒有對著木像叩頭啊！」他這個太太以前以為就是這麼用針刺這木像，洩一洩她的這種厭倦的心，想不到這個木像也會流淚。於是乎她知道這裏頭是

The ancients said, "With sincerity and concentration, one can make metal and stone crack." In whatever we do, we must sincerely do our best. Now we are talking about Ding Lan, a paragon of sincerity, who had a response because of his sincerity.

Ding Lan was a man from the Han Dynasty. He was naturally sincere and filial. He valued his parents very much because he was filial. Unfortunately, "The tree wants to be still but the wind continues to blow; the son wants to care for his parents but they can't wait any longer and are gone." His parents passed away early, and he missed them all the time. He missed them so much that he could no longer taste his food, feel warmth from his clothes, or sleep. As it is said, "You don't sleep peacefully or eat well." After a long time, he decided that he couldn't go on like this and needed to find a way to solve this problem of missing his parents.

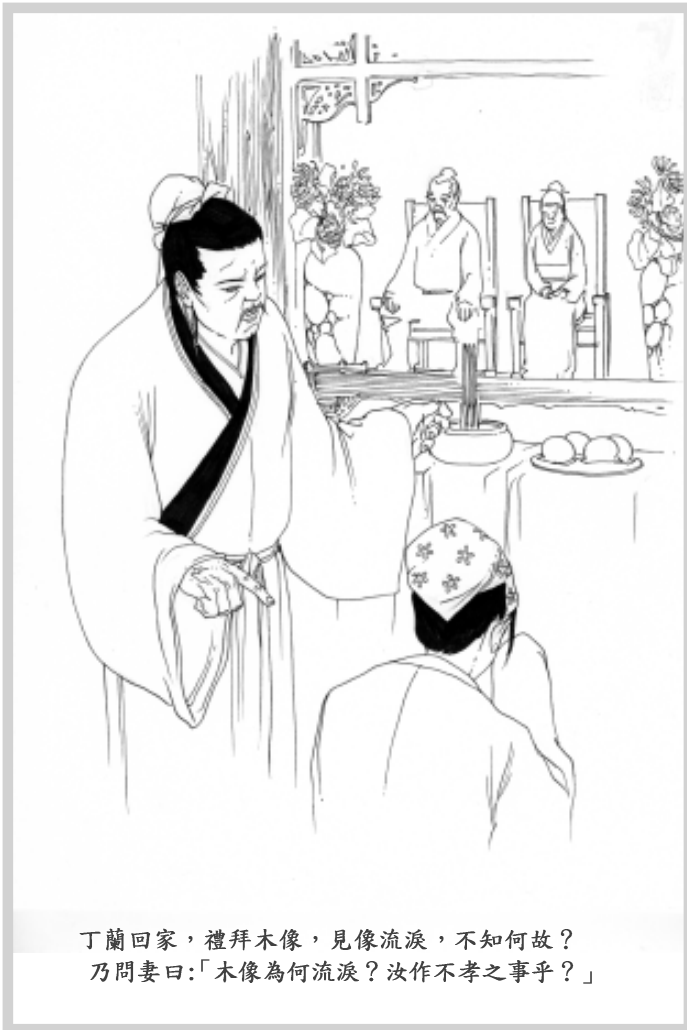
He thought and thought but couldn't think of a good solution. In the Han Dynasty there weren't cameras to take photographs, and few paintings. So he recalled the likenesses of his parents and carved two figures out of wood, one of his father and one of his mother. He then placed them on the altar in his home and made offerings to them. He bowed day and night to his parents, lit incense and made offerings to alleviate his sorrow about his parents' absence.

When he married, he handed this responsibility over to his wife and told her, "These are the images of my parents in our house that I make offerings to, you should bow and make offerings to them in my stead with sincerity." At that time his wife agreed, but after a while she began to dislike it. They were just wooden figures, and she thought that it was meaningless to bow and pay respect to them every day. So she took a needle and secretly pierced these wooden figures as a way to vent her anger. She hadn't thought that these wooden figures would tell on her, but tears came out of the eyes of the wooden figures.

When Ding Lan came home and was bowing to the wooden figures, he saw that the figures were shedding tears. These weren't just one or two drops, the tears were like strands of pearls sliding down their faces. So Ding Lan knew that something had to be wrong and said to his wife, "Why are the wooden figures crying? It's probably because you were not filial or disrespectful, and didn't bow to them!" It was because his wife had used a needle to pierce the wooden figures to vent her vexation, not expecting that the wooden figures would cry. So she knew that there was an efficacious response, some inconceivable state, and



Filiality



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乃問妻曰：「木像為何流淚？汝作不孝之事乎？」

When Ding Lan returned home and bowed to the wooden images, he saw the wooden statues shedding tears and could not understand why. So he asked his wife, "Why are there tears trickling down from the image? Did you do anything unfilial?"

有感應，有一種不可思議的境界。

「其妻始知生大慚愧，坦白承認以針刺像事。」這時候她才知道生大懺悔，也就很坦白的告訴丁蘭，說她怎麼樣偷著用針刺木像這個事情。這樣的說完了，「丁蘭怒曰：「如此不孝，當驅出門；但汝知悔，姑且原諒。如再犯此種過錯，絕不寬恕！」丁蘭生氣說：「你這樣的不孝順，本來應該驅逐你出門，我這個丁家不要你了；可是你是還知道悔改，所以以後不可以再犯這種過錯！」於是乎他太太改過自新了，奉養這個木像就有如父母在的模樣，所謂「事親如親在」那麼樣的。「丁蘭之孝心，感動其妻恭敬木像，始終不敢輕辱木像。」

丁蘭這件事情處理得很好，能把他太太也感化過來。這種「至誠感物，化導人心，為後世之模範」，能以做現在的人的一個模範，「作前人之表率」，做以前的人一個代表、一個領導者。「孝念大矣哉！」所以孝順這個德行是很大的！



started to repent. She repented and very truthfully told Ding Lan how she pierced the wood figures with her needle. After she had finished speaking, Ding Lan told her that what she had done was very unfilial and originally he should have driven her out of the Ding family. However, he relented and said that she knew how to repent and change, and she must not make this kind of mistake again. So his wife turned over a new leaf and treated the wooden figures of the parents as if they were still alive.

Ding Lan dealt with this matter very well and also moved and transformed his wife. It is an example of "sincerity affecting objects and teaching and transforming people." As a representative of the ancients, he was a model leader for the ancients. So this virtue of filial piety is a very important one.