

《論語淺釋》

(續)

The Analects of Confucius (Continued)

宣化上人講 Lectures by Venerable Master Hua

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【學而第一】

周幽王有個妃子褒姒，她總也不笑；有一次，周幽王把烽火臺點著了，就故意想博取褒姒的一笑。那麼烽火點著了，諸侯都頂盔冠甲的來到這兒，在城下那兒都很緊張的；褒姒一看這麼多軍隊都從各處來了，她就哈哈一笑。之後，這些諸侯就問周幽王說：「你點著烽火，叫我們來做什麼呢？」周幽王說：「沒有事！不過就是我那個娘娘她很愁悶的，我把你們引來，叫她看看你們的軍隊。她現在很歡喜了！她高興了！」這些諸侯一聽：「唉呀！你真是個昏君！你怎麼能因為你太太，來戲弄我們這些個諸侯？」就都回去了——班師而還。

可是周朝到後來，又有了事，有其他人來侵略周這國家了。他這回又點著烽火，招諸侯來；諸侯這回看見這個煙：「喔！他又因為那個娘娘，又想叫娘娘笑。我們不幹了！不去了！」結果江山就丟了。你看！這叫「幽王舉火戲諸侯」，就是不會治理國家，治理國家就馬馬虎虎地；所以要「敬事而信」，要有信用。他為什麼把江山丟了？就因為他失信用了，對人家所做的事情，令人不相信了，所以這叫「不敬事而信。」

「孔子為魯司寇」，孔子在魯國當司寇；司寇，就相當「宰相」的樣子。「三月」，治理那個國家三個月，「而魯國大治」，魯國就「路不拾遺，夜不閉戶，槍刀入庫，馬放南山」，都是這樣太平盛世的樣子了。「齊人歸女樂」，而齊國一看，因為齊國和魯國是挨著的，齊國就妒忌了！齊景公妒忌了，就說：「唉呀！我們這個鄰國若強起來，對我們也不利，我們要想法子來破

Chapter 1: Xue Er (To Learn)

King You of Zhou had a concubine by the name of Baosi who hardly ever smiled. One time, the king had the beacon towers lighted just for the purpose of eliciting a smile from her. On sighting the beacon fires, the feudal lords donned their armory and rushed frantically to the capital. When Baosi saw the troops arriving from all directions, she burst out laughing. The feudal lords asked King You, "Why has Your Majesty summoned us here with the beacon fires?" To this, the king replied, "Nothing is the matter. As my consort was in low spirits, I sent for all of you so that she can inspect your troops. She has cheered up now and is very happy!" On hearing this, the feudal lords thought to themselves: "My Lord! You are a fatuous ruler indeed! How could you make fun of us just to amuse your consort?" They then departed and returned to their respective stations.

Subsequently, the Zhou kingdom met with an invasion and King You again lighted the beacon fires to summon help. However, when the feudal lords saw the smoke signals this time, they reasoned: "Oh! The king is trying to amuse his consort again. We are not going to fall for it. We're staying put here!" In the end, the kingdom was vanquished. From this episode of King You lighting the beacon fires to trick the feudal lords, you can see the outcome of not governing a country well. Hence, a ruler should perform his duties with diligence and sincerity. Why did King You lose his throne? It is because he had lost the trust of his subjects. As a result of his actions and deeds, people just did not believe him anymore.

While in the State of Lu, Confucius served as the Minister of Justice, a post that was similar to that of Chief Minister. Within three months, the state had achieved such excellent governance that people did not pick up lost articles on the streets and left their doors unlocked at night, put away weapons in the arsenal and set their war-horses to graze on the hillsides. It was a scene of great peace and prosperity. This incurred the jealousy of the neighboring State of Qi. Green with envy, Duke Jing of Qi said, "My goodness! If the neighboring State of Lu becomes strong, it will be to our disadvantage. We must think of a way to disrupt its government." After conferring with his courtiers, Duke Jing decided

壞它！」大家開會一商量，得用什麼方法，去破壞魯國的治安呢？就訓練出一班的「女樂」。這「女樂」，就是女人唱奏音樂。訓練一班女的，又漂亮，聲音又宛轉，像那「白鶴、孔雀、鸚鵡、舍利、迦陵頻伽、共命之鳥」，那麼美而中聽的聲音。所以她一唱歌、一奏音樂，人就會「入定」了！女樂都訓練好了，就給魯國送去了；給魯國送女樂，這就是為著破壞魯國的政治。你看！那時候的人就這麼壞，現在這些個人，還想不出這些個壞法子來，比那時候還好。

那時候，你看，「有智慧的人」也多，能夠想出這些個破壞其他國家的方法，就用女樂。齊人歸女樂，「季桓子受之」，這個季桓子，是魯國的一個官。這是個奸臣，奸臣就不是忠臣。這個奸臣一看：「喔！這些個女孩子這麼漂亮，又會奏音樂、又會跳舞。」跳，那時候不是芭蕾舞，大約是土風舞、或者什麼舞這一套的，就那兒蹦蹦跳跳的。季桓子一看：「哇！這真好啊！」於是乎就獻給魯王了。

「三日不朝」，魯王一看這個女樂，哦！真是飯也不記得吃了，朝也不記得上，國家的事情也不管了，所以三日也沒有上朝。本來皇帝是每天五更的時候，要去臨朝坐殿，和文武百官來討論治國的方略；他連著三日，國家怎麼樣，也不管了。「孔子行」，孔子一看：「喔！你這樣的荒淫無道，走了！」所以把小包一收拾，就把印也都不要了！掛印、封金，就走了！於是乎就去周遊列國。因為他在魯國那三月，把國家治得那麼好，於是乎每一個國家，有的人就很重視他、很高看他的，但是也有的人就很妒忌他。

所以在這個時候，他說這段「道千乘之國」，這大約也是那麼很歎惜地說這話：「唉！現在治國的，簡直都是那麼笨呢！都是那麼愚癡啊！你若是治理千乘的國家，你應該『敬事而信，節用而愛人』。」「節用」：就是節省一切的物質，用什麼都要節省，不要那麼浪費；不要把天地間生的物質，都浪費了，都丟了不能用，所以他說「節用」。「而愛人」：愛人，就是重視老百姓的生命財產、重視老百姓的生活，要愛護老百姓；作皇帝的，一定要愛護自己國家的人民。所謂「一人有慶，兆民賴之」；一個人若是吉祥、吉慶的話，那所有的老百姓都是「借光」了，所以「兆民賴之」。

☞待續

on a plan to train a troupe of dancing girls who could sing and play musical instruments. Beautiful and alluring, these girls had voices as sweet as those of white cranes, peacocks, parrots, egrets, *kalavinkas* and two-headed birds. Once they started singing and playing their music, one could very well 'enter samadhi.' Upon the completion of their training, the girls were sent to the State of Lu with the mission to weaken its administration. You see, people back then were so wicked! Modern-day people are better as they cannot think of such a ruse.

In those times, there were many who were wise for they could devise a scheme of using feminine charm to bring down a government. The envoy of Qi brought a gift of dancing girls, which was accepted by Ji Huanzi. Ji Huanzi was a treacherous and disloyal official in the State of Lu. As there was no ballet dancing back then, the girls probably performed a folk dance. Looking at the pretty maidens singing and dancing to the accompaniment of sweet music, he exclaimed, "Ah! This is excellent!" and promptly presented them to the Duke of Lu.

At the sight of the dancing girls, the Duke forgot all about eating and governing, to the extent of failing to hold court and attend to state affairs for three days in succession. Actually, an emperor had to hold court at the fifth watch every morning to discuss the affairs of state with his officials. However, the Duke of Lu neglected his duties for three days in a row. Witnessing the dissolute lifestyle of the duke, Confucius returned his official seal, packed his bags and left. Thereafter, he embarked on a journey to visit the various states throughout the Zhou kingdom. As he had managed to administer the State of Lu so well within a period of only three months, everywhere he went, there were people who looked up to him but, at the same time, there were some who were jealous of him.

Therefore, when Confucius said those words in the passage, "In governing a state that possesses a thousand chariots," he was most probably lamenting: "Alas! All those state rulers are absolutely stupid and foolish! If you were to administer a state with a thousand chariots, you ought to perform your duties with diligence and fulfill your obligations sincerely. You should practice frugality and cherish capable men." 'Practice frugality' is to cut down on extravagance and reduce wastage of natural resources. 'Cherish capable men' is to place importance on the people's lives and properties, and show concern for their livelihoods and well-being. An emperor must cherish and protect his subjects. As the saying goes: "When the Son of Heaven is virtuous, millions of people will depend on him." This is to say that if a person brings auspiciousness and good fortune, then all the common folk will bask in his glory.

☞To be continued