

REFLECTION IN THE WATER-MIRROR: TURNING THE TIDE OF DESTINY 【水鏡回天錄白話解】

Min, Ziqian (Continued)

閔子騫 (續)

宣化上人講於一九八八年四月一日

Lectures by the Venerable Master Hua on April 1, 1988

比丘近永 英譯 Translated into English by Bhikshu Jin Yong

贊曰：

孔門弟子	德行子騫
孝親敬友	媲美顏淵
為弟留母	代父化賢
嚴慈歡喜	閤家團圓

孔門弟子，德行子騫：孔門弟子中，德行第一的是顏淵和閔子騫。

孝親敬友，媲美顏淵：他孝順父母親，友愛弟弟，和顏淵一樣的賢德。

*Praise:***Confucius's disciple Virtuous Zi-Qian****Filial to parents and kind to friends****As worthy as Yan Yuan****Kept the stepmother for the sake of his younger brothers****Transformed her into a good mother on behalf of his father****Both parents were joyful and the family remained intact.***Commentary:*

Confucius's disciple / Virtuous Zi-Qian. Among Confucius' students, Yan Yuan and Ming Zi-Qian were foremost in virtue. **Filial to parents and kind to friends / As worthy as Yan Yuan.** He was very filial to his parents and kind to his younger brothers. He was as virtuous and worthy as Yan Yuan.

Kept the stepmother for the sake of his younger brothers / Transformed her into a good mother on behalf of his father. For his younger brothers' sake, he begged his father to keep the stepmother; on behalf of his father, he transformed the stepmother into a good mother.

Both parents were joyful and the family remained intact. Because of his virtue and wisdom, his father was happy and fought no more with the stepmother; the stepmother became very considerate; no more animosity existed between both of them. He transformed war into peace in his family. He saved his family from breaking up, and all three children were saved from suffering from the cold.

*Another verse:***Filiality and worthiness are the universal virtues.****Brightness reaches afar and shines the whole universe.****Old Lai acted like a child to entertain parents.****Min Sun pleaded his father not to have all children go frozen.****His virtuous conduct transformed the society.****His utmost sincerity moved and resolved animosity.**

為弟留母，代父化賢：他為了弟弟，要求父親留下後母；代父親感化後母，使她變成賢母。

嚴慈歡喜，閤家團圓：由於他的賢達，令父親生歡喜，也就不和母親吵架了；母親對父親也很體貼，互相沒有仇隙。這就叫化家庭的干戈為玉帛。全家沒有支零破碎，沒有家破人亡，沒有三子寒的遭遇。

又說偈曰：

天地正義孝與賢 光明萬丈照大千
老萊娛親兒童戲 閔損諫父眾子寒
化行俗美移風氣 至誠感動解仇冤
人心向善災劫息 五穀豐登萬萬年

天地正義孝與賢：孝和賢就是天地的正義。光明萬丈照大千：這種光明射於萬丈，就像照明彈，把每個地方都照亮了。

老萊娛親兒童戲：老萊子為什麼叫老萊子呢？他八十多歲時，他的父母親大概一百來歲。他恐怕父母親擔心他老了，沒有結婚，沒有兒子、孫子，於是穿上花花綠綠的衣服，裝成小孩，在父母親面前蹦蹦跳跳，耍兒童戲，耍完了又裝哭，又裝笑，他爸爸媽媽一看了都哈哈大笑。這就叫「老萊子斑衣娛親」。閔損諫父眾子寒：閔損勸諫父親說：「母去三子寒」。

化行俗美移風氣：這種行為不單在閔家形成一種風氣，也能影響整個鄉黨鄰里，形成好的風俗，所謂「流風易俗」，使人人都盡孝，成為一種風俗習慣。至誠感動解仇冤：因為他用至誠的心化干戈為玉帛，本來後母嫉妒障礙、很不賢良的，他能將這個冤仇解去，他爸爸也不攆走媽媽了。

人心向善災劫息：他用這個方法能令人心向善，世界就自然風調雨順、國泰民安，一切天災人禍都沒有了。五穀豐登萬萬年：這時候種地、打糧，都是年年豐收，人人都有飽飯吃；不會像他那麼吃不飽、穿不暖。這就是「一人有慶，兆民賴之」；因為他有這種好行為，感化得一般人都聞風向化，盡孝道、友愛兄弟。

People's hearts became good and calamities were quelled. Abundant harvest of crops lasted for billions of years.

Filiality and worthiness are the universal virtues. / Brightness reaches afar and shines the whole universe. This light reaches afar like an illuminating bomb shines all places.

Old Lai acted like a child to entertain parents. Why was he called Old Lai Zi? When he was over 80 years old, his parents were likely to be over 100. He was

afraid that his parents worried about him being unmarried and thus without any sons and grandchildren. He put on colorful clothes and acted like a kid, jumping, dancing and playing in front of his parents. He pretended crying and then laughing to make his parents happy. **Min Sun pleaded his father not to have all children go frozen.** Min Sun advised his father: "All three children would go frozen without the mother."

His virtuous conduct transformed the society. His behavior influenced not only his family but also the neighborhood and became part of the culture. He made filial respect to become a custom. **His utmost sincerity moved and resolved animosity.** With his utmost sincerity, he transformed war into peace. His stepmother used to be very jealous and mean; however, he was able to resolve the animosity. As a result, his father did not kick the stepmother out.

People's hearts became good and calamities were quelled. He was able to turn people's hearts towards goodness. As a result, the weather became favorable, the country peaceful and people happy. There were no more natural or manmade calamities. **Abundant harvest of crops lasted for billions of years.** Every year the harvest of crops was abundant, and everyone had enough food to eat; unlike Zi-Qian who had neither enough food to eat nor enough clothes to keep warm. This is so called "One person has blessings and billions of people rely on him." His virtuous conducts moved people to become filial to parents and friendly to brothers.

