

## 《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】

這叫「追遠」，你若再能永遠記念得父母這種養育之恩，雖然他們死了，也是到春天去拜拜山，就是到那兒叩幾個頭，上一枝香，這是可以的；不需要燒紙錢，燒紙錢真是沒有用的。我知道，如果我是鬼的話，誰給我那麼一堆灰，我真討厭到極點了！所以這要講真理的。

「民德歸厚矣」：民，就是「老百姓」；老百姓的風俗習慣，都很純樸了，都忠厚老實的，老百姓這種的德行，都一天比一天就會多起來。

(十)子禽問於子貢曰。夫子至於是邦也。必問其政。求之與。抑與之與。子貢曰。夫子溫良恭儉讓以得之。夫子之求之也。其諸異乎人之求之與。

「子禽」：有人知道「子禽」是怎麼回事嗎？是姓什麼的？有沒有人知道？我問你們，你們知道就趕快講，不要在那兒「入定」。啊！耳東陳。他有沒有旁的名字啊？那就陳子禽了。陳子禽，大約他是很歡喜鳥的，所以用這一個「飛禽」的「禽」。

「問於子貢」：他就問子貢。子貢姓端木，名賜，字子貢。我們這兒不有個「恆貢」，也是「果賜」，字「恆貢」？也就是從那兒來的。果賜！這你要知道為什麼。他姓端木，名賜，字子貢。這個弟子最會做生意，好像陶朱公；總而言之，他會做生意，「子貢生財，臆則屢中」。他最知道行情，無論什麼東西起價、跌價，他一想就知道了！他預先一揣測：「啊！今年水果會賺

## Chapter 1: Xue Er (To Learn)

This is the meaning of the line “conducting memorials for ancestors.” If you can always remember your parents’ kindness in bringing you up, then even though they may have departed, make a trip to visit their graves during springtime. It is all right to bow your head to the ground a few times and light a stick of incense, but don’t burn paper money as it doesn’t serve any purpose. I know that if I were a ghost and someone were to give me a pile of ash, I would be extremely disgusted! Therefore, we must speak true principles.

The people’s moral behavior will tend towards sincerity and kindness. ‘People’ refers to the common folk whose customs and habits will be characterized by simplicity, sincerity and honesty. Their virtuous conduct will amass with each passing day.

(10) Ziqin asked Zigong, “When the Master visited the various states, he would invariably learn about their forms of governance. Did he seek out such knowledge, or did others voluntarily inform him?” Zigong replied, “It was by virtue of the Master’s gentle disposition, kind-heartedness, respectful attitude, frugal habits and humble nature that he acquired this knowledge. His manner of seeking such information is different from the methods generally employed by other people, isn’t it?”

**Ziqin.** Does anyone know anything about Ziqin? What was his surname? I am asking all of you. If you know, then quickly speak up. Don’t sit there and enter samadhi. Ah! His surname was Chen, the one with an ‘ear’ radical on the left and an ‘east’ character on the right. Did he have any given name? Well, his full name was Chen Ziqin. He was probably fond of birds, hence he was called ‘禽’ (qín).

**Asked Zigong.** He inquired of Zigong whose surname was Duanmu, given name was Ci and style name was Zigong. Here in our midst, isn’t there one called Heng Gong, otherwise known as Guo Ci? That was how the name was derived. Guo Ci! You ought to be aware of the reason. This disciple of Confucius was adept at doing business, just like Lord Tao Zhu. In short, his business acumen was good. As the saying goes: ‘Zigong is wealthy because his conjectures always turn out

錢的。」他就買了很多水果。「啊！核桃不錯！」所以他就買了很多核桃來賣。他這樣子，就賺了很多錢，這叫「子貢生財，臆則屢中」；臆，就是「想一想」。他想一想，就很多時候都碰上了！就像買馬票似的，他就中頭獎了；買股票，嚇！也是那股票就漲價了。他最會做生意，這是子貢的長處，可是他也是很有學問的一個人。

子禽問於子貢，「曰：夫子至於是邦也」：他說，「夫子」；你們知道什麼叫「夫子」？（弟子：「夫子就是孔子。」）噯！老夫子！但不是像香港那個報紙上盡講的「老夫子」。這個「夫子」，就是「我們的老師」，這是一個通稱，叫「夫子」。好像你們叫我、你們互相談話，說「師父」；這也就是一個「師父」的別名，就「我們的老師」、「我們的老夫子」。他說，夫子「至於是邦也」，我們的這個夫子，他無論到任何一個國家。「必聞其政」：他一定知道那國家的政事；那個政治怎麼樣，是長處、短處？是怎麼樣治理國家這種政事啊？他一定知道的。

「求之與」：是他向人家求教明白的嗎？「抑與之與」：抑，當「或者」；或者人家自動告訴他的呢？這是問的口氣。或者是旁人自動給他這種的消息、給他這種政治的新聞呢？與，就是「給」。後面的「與」，是一個嘆問辭、一個問號；就是「是不是這樣的呢」？「求之與」、「抑與之與」，這都是問的口氣；這個「與」字，就不當「給」字講了，就當「乎」字、或者「嗎」字。「是他求的嗎？或者是人家給他的嗎？」這種樣子。

「子貢曰」：子貢就說了，「夫子溫」：我們夫子，他很溫厚、很溫和的，他對誰都很和氣的、很溫暖的，沒有貢高我慢的行為。「良」：就是「良善」；「優良」也可以，「良善」也可以。他有他的優點、有他的優良處、有他好的一面。「恭」：我們的夫子，對任何人也沒有貢高我慢，他對誰都很恭敬的，沒有一點驕傲的行為。「儉」：就是「節約」；他還節約，什麼東西也不浪費。所以我告訴你們，我才學會我們孔老夫子這個「儉」，這是做人最好的一個方法；儉，就是「節約」，不浪費東西。

☯待續

right.' He knew all the ins and outs of the trade. As soon as he gave it some thought, he would know whether a commodity would increase or decrease in value! By making a prior conjecture like "Ah! This year, trading in fruits will rake in lots of money," he would then proceed to purchase huge quantities of fruit. If he thought, "Ah! Walnuts are not bad," he would then buy a lot of walnuts to sell. In this way, he became very rich, hence the saying 'Zigong is wealthy because his conjectures always turn out right' came about. The character '臆' (yì) means 'conjecture' or 'surmise.' Just by thinking a little, he hit the jackpot most of the time, not unlike buying a lottery ticket and winning the first prize. If he were to buy stocks and shares, it was for sure that their prices would surge. Doing business was Zigong's forte, but he was also a very learned person.

Ziqin asked Zigong, "**When the Master visited the various states**". He mentioned 'fu zi' (Master). Do you know whom it refers to? [Disciple: The Master is Confucius.] Oh! Lao Fuzi! But it does not refer to the 'Crazy Fu' comic character that appears frequently in Hong Kong newspapers. Here, 'fu zi' means 'our teacher' and it is a general term of address. For example, when you refer to me in your conversations, you say 'Shifu', which is just another name for 'our teacher' or 'our old master'. He said, "When the Master visited the various states". As for this teacher of ours, no matter which state he traveled to, **he would invariably learn about their forms of governance**. He would definitely know about the administrative aspects of that state, its systems, strengths and weaknesses. He certainly understood all the procedures for governing and administering a country.

Did he seek out such knowledge? Did he find out by inquiring from people? Or did others voluntarily inform him? Or was it the case that other people provided the information to him of their own accord? The character '與' (yǔ) means 'give' or 'provide.' However, when it appears at the end of a sentence, '與' (yú) is interrogative in meaning, such as 'Is it like that?' These two lines therefore have a questioning tone. In this sense, '與' (yú) should not be interpreted as 'give' but should assume the function of the interrogative particles '乎' (hū) and '嗎' (ma).

**Zigong replied.** Zigong proceeded to explain. **The Master's gentle disposition.** Their master was a very warm and caring person who got along well with everybody and was not arrogant. The character '良' (liáng) can mean either '**kind-heartedness**' or 'fine quality'. He had his fine points; there was a good side to him. The character '恭' (gōng) means '**respectful**'. The master did not display any acts of arrogance to anybody. He treated everyone with respect and was not proud in his behavior. The character '儉' (jiǎn) means '**frugal**'. Moreover, he was frugal and did not waste anything. That's why I told you that I have just mastered Confucius' art of frugality, which is one of the best methods to be a proper person.

☯To be continued