

Huangdi (Yellow Emperor)

黃帝

宣公上人講於1987年10月30日

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姓公孫，名軒轅。於四千六百餘年前，生於河南軒轅丘。初為部落酋長，一面練武，一面教化。此時，炎帝（神農）第八代之榆罔，無力統治天下，各部落互相攻打，為救民苦，而滅榆罔，各部落歸順。南方九黎之君蚩尤，發兵攻軒轅，經過激烈鏖戰，蚩尤兵敗被殺。各部落酋長，擁護為帝，以土德王，土色黃，故為黃帝，建都有熊。英明領導，大公無私，政治安定，文化進步。陸有車，水有舟，發明指南針及弓箭等。其后嫫祖，養蠶織布，其臣倉頡造字，大撓作甲子等。在位百年崩，葬於橋山。後人尊為中國之始祖。

黃帝是中華民族共同的始祖，係少典氏國君之子，姓公孫，名軒轅，四千六百多年前生於河南的軒轅丘；古時候的人，常以出生地為名，所以名為軒轅。他是中國歷史上第一個偉人，也是奠定中國文明的第一座基石。

相傳黃帝的母親名叫附寶，有一天到祁這個郊野，看見雷光閃爍環繞著北斗樞星，由此感而懷孕，經二十四個月之後生下黃帝，出生時天上有祥雲瑞相。

黃帝生來就聰穎異常、才智周

Huangdi's last name was Gongsun and his first name was Xuanyuan. Born

more than four thousand six hundred years ago at the Hill of Xuanyuan in Henan Province, he was initially a tribal leader who both practiced martial arts and educated the people. At that time, Yuwang, the eighth generation descendent of the Yan Emperor (Shennong), was incapable of governing his people, and as a result the tribes were at war with each other. To free people from suffering, Xuanyuan defeated Yuwang and united all the tribes, who then pledged their allegiance to him. Later, Chiyou, the leader of the southern state of Jiuli, led military forces against Xuanyuan; however, after a series of fierce battles, he was defeated and executed. Thenceforth all tribal leaders accepted and supported Xuanyuan as their ruler, who ruled in a manner that emulated the virtues of the earth. Due to yellow color of earth, he received the imperial title, Yellow Emperor. Establishing his capital at Youxiong, he ruled wisely and fairly, bringing the stability of political security to the tribes and helping them to advance toward a higher state of civilization. Chariots were now seen on land and ships on the sea. The South Pointing Chariot (forerunner of today's compass), as well as the bow and arrow, were invented at this time. His wife, the empress Leizu, raised silkworms and wove silk from them. One of his ministers, Cangjie, invented Chinese characters; and another, Darao, invented the traditional Chinese sixty-year calendrical system known as the sexagenary cycle. After reigning for one hundred years Huangdi died and was buried in Qiaoshan. Succeeding generations have honored him as the first emperor of China.

Commentary:

The Yellow Emperor, the first common ancestor of the Chinese people, was the son of Lord Shaodian. His family name was Gongsun and his given name, Xuanyuan. He was born more than 4,600 years ago at the Hill of Xuanyuan in Henan province. In ancient times people were usually named after their birthplace, so he received the name Xuanyuan. He was the first great man in Chinese history and he laid the foundations for Chinese culture and civilization.

遍，不到七十天就會開口說話。長大以後更是聰敏敦厚、精明強幹、大公無私，具有領導的能力，青年有為的他於是被選為部落的首長，來為民服務。他一方面對部落的壯丁施以軍事訓練，使人人都成為驍勇善戰的精兵，有作戰的經驗，逢戰必勝；一方面又教化族人禮義道德，使人人知禮明義，互相援助，情同手足，大家團結一致。

當時中華民族散居各地，形成許多部族。其中兩支最為有名：一支是偏西的姜姓部族，就是炎帝神農氏的部族；另一支是偏居東方的姬姓部族，也就是黃帝這個部族。因為炎帝神農氏這一支發展較早，勢力也最大，所以長久以來都是由他們統治著各部族。到了軒轅時，炎帝（神農氏）第八代子孫榆罔已經沒有統治天下的能力，各部落的首長為爭利益，常互相攻打，老百姓苦不堪言。

軒轅為了拯救民苦，就滅了榆罔，其他各部落也都紛紛來歸順他。這時南方長江流域九黎君長蚩尤，勢力強大，殘暴不仁。他身材魁武，善於作戰；又有神力，能呼風喚雨，撒豆成兵，所向無敵。蚩尤發兵來攻軒轅，想奪軒轅中原共主的地方。黃帝和他鏖戰於涿鹿（鏖：劇烈、苦戰之意），蚩尤施放煙霧陣，困軒轅的軍隊於迷境，使他們分不出東西南北；但智慧高超的軒轅，馬上發明了指南車及弓箭，衝出迷霧，大破蚩尤。經過幾次激烈的戰爭，蚩尤終於被打敗了；從此南北統一，各部落的首長遂擁護軒轅為帝。因為他以土德王天下，土能生萬物，有利於眾生，又因為土是黃色的，所以就稱他為黃帝，建都在有熊（今河南新鄭）。

Legend has it that the Yellow Emperor's mother was named Fubao. One day she came to the countryside of Chi and saw flashes of lightning surrounding the first star of the Dipper. Upon seeing this she became pregnant and after twenty-four months gave birth to the Yellow Emperor. When he was born, auspicious clouds and signs appeared in the sky.

The Yellow Emperor was born brilliant, able, and wise. Less than 70 days after his birth he was able to speak. Once he had grown up he was even more honest and sincere, even more intelligent and capable, and he displayed the fairness and competence of a true leader. Since he was so young and promising he was elected tribal chief, so that he might be of service to his people. He drafted strong men into the military so that they could develop into experienced, brave, skillful soldiers who would win every battle; but at the same time he educated his tribe in matters of etiquette, humanity, justice, and ethics. Since everybody was courteous and understanding, they were able to support each other like brothers and sisters in a large harmonious family.

At that time the Chinese people lived scattered throughout various regions, thus forming many different clans and tribes. Two of these were particularly famous: in the West, the Jiang (the tribe of Yandi of Shennongshi's clan); and in the East, the Ji (the tribe of the Yellow Emperor's clan). Because the tribe of Yandi of Shennongshi had developed earlier and had greater power, it ruled over all of the other tribes. But Xuanyuan's contemporary, Yuwang (the eighth-generation descendant of Yandi), was not a competent ruler, and so the chiefs of the various tribes, in a struggle for power and profit, started to attack one another. This situation rendered the people miserable beyond description.

In order to save the people from suffering and pain, Xuanyuan defeated Yuwang. The other tribes then came to submit themselves to his authority and pledged allegiance to him. At this time, Chiyou, the chief of the Jiuli tribe, near the Yangzi Valley in the South, gained power, but he exercised it with ruthless brutality. Chiyou was tall, well-built and an expert on the battlefield. He not only had spiritual powers which enabled him to control the forces of nature but he also had the magical ability to turn beans into soldiers. He was simply invincible. Chiyou dispatched troops against Xuanyuan because he wanted to seize the common land which he ruled. The Yellow Emperor's army fought with Chiyou in a fierce battle at Zhulu. Chiyou conjured up a thick fog that obscured the sunlight, causing Xuanyuan's soldiers to fall into disarray. They could not find their way off of the battlefield. At this critical moment, the extraordinarily intelligent Xuanyuan invented the South Pointing Chariot and the bow and arrow, enabling the soldiers to break out of the fog and triumph over Chiyou. After a few fierce battles, Chiyou was finally defeated. From then on North and South were united and the chiefs of all tribes and clans chose Xuanyuan as their emperor. Since he ruled the kingdom by emulating the earth in its virtues of producing the myriad things and benefiting living beings, and since the earth is yellow in color, he received the title of Yellow Emperor. His capital was founded in Youxiong, which is currently located at Xinzheng in Henan Province.

☞待續

☞To be continued