

The Analects of Confucius (Continued) (續)

《論語淺釋》

【爲政第二】

你看！孔子也很會辯的，他沒有做官，他說他做官了！這並不是打妄語，並不是說：「你偷東西吃了沒有？」他說：「我偷吃了。」很坦白的。若不坦白，就說：「我沒吃啊！我沒偷吃啊！」這就是有個覆藏罪了；不單不坦白，這叫「掩飾罪過」，那罪上加罪。所以你們誰造了罪業，若不認真懺悔，那是罪上加罪的；默默中，一定不能允許你這樣的，因果絕對不放過你的！

(二十二)子曰：「人而無信，不知其可也。大車無輓，小車無軌，其何以行之哉？」

這個「車」字讀「居」，你們讀書的人應該知道！我們說「伋（音「掌」）獨子車（音「居」）」，不是「伋（音「常」）獨子車」。孟子，姓孟名軻，字子車（音「居」）；不是子車，這個應該要懂得讀的。所以你念了很多書，一念，念的音不同了，人家就知道了：「哦！你這盡念白字！」好像寫字，這中國字很欺負人的。你寫得一手好字，你就不認識字的，他也認為你這個人是很有學問了；你若寫字寫得不好，你就認識再多字，他也覺得你沒有「材料」了！所以字體一定要好。

字體怎麼樣謂之「好」呢？字體本來有「歐、柳、顏、趙」等不同，歐，就



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Chapter 2: To Govern

You see, Confucius was also adept at talking. He was not employed in government service, and yet he claimed to be an official. However, this is not considered telling a lie. It's different from a situation where someone asks: "Did you steal any of the food?" and you admit very frankly, "Yes, I did." If you are not forthright, then you will protest,

"No way! I didn't steal any of the food." This is considered committing the offense of 'covering and hiding.' Not only are you not frank, you are committing an offense on top of an offense because you are concealing your transgression. Therefore, if any of you commit karmic offenses and do not seriously repent and reform, that is considered committing a double offense. Imperceptible forces will definitely prevent you from getting away with it. The law of cause and effect will not let you off, for sure.

(22) The Master said, "If a person is not trustful with others, it is not known what he can amount to. When a large cart lacks a dowel and a small cart lacks a pin joint, how are they able to function accordingly?"

The character '車' is pronounced as 'jū' and not 'chē.' As most academics know, there is a saying: "Zhangdu and Ziju," in which the character '伋' is pronounced as 'zhǎng' and not 'cháng.' Mencius, whose surname is Meng, and formal name is Ke, has a style name called Ziju. It is not pronounced as 'Ziche.' Please take note of the correct form of pronunciation. Though you may be erudite, people will realize the wrong pronunciation and say, "Oh, you are just pronouncing the characters literally." It is the same as writing Chinese characters, which can be a very demanding task. If you write beautifully, even though you may be illiterate, people may assume that you are very knowledgeable. On the other hand, if your writing is terrible, and though you may recognize many characters, people may think that you don't have any substance. Therefore, your written script must be good.

In what way is it considered 'good?' Character styles are classified according

歐陽洵；柳，就是柳公權；顏，是顏真卿；趙，是趙孟頫。這四大家寫字寫得都非常好，趙孟頫的字，是又有肉又有骨頭；柳公權的字，是有骨頭沒有肉；顏真卿的字，是有肉沒有骨頭，好像很胖的，但是那裡頭包著骨頭不露；歐陽洵的字，寫得很秀麗的。這都是很好的字體，這四大家，各有所長。

我們學中國文學，你要把字練習得很端正的，所謂「一筆不苟」，這一筆也不要叫它敗筆，也不要馬馬虎虎就把它一筆寫完了，這不能馬虎的。所以在學中國字，要謹慎注意，你就是文章作得再好，若字寫得不好，你考狀元可考不上的，所以一定要寫好字。中國字有小楷，有大楷；大楷就寫大字，小楷就寫小字。小字有所謂的「蠅頭小字」，字就像那個蒼蠅頭那麼大，一個字一個字的，但是都是一筆不苟，清清楚楚的。所以這是學習中國文化才有這樣子的情形。

「子曰」，「人而無信，不知其可也」：做人一定要重信，還要重義。信，就是信用；不失信於人，就是不打妄語；你若是不信，就是打妄語了。所以說你若盡打妄語，誰也不相信你了！誰見著你，他說：「欸！這個人講話都是假的，不實在的。」一個人如果不講信用，沒人相信你，你什麼事情也行不通，真不知道他能幹什麼？

「大車無輓，小車無軌」：就像那個大的車上邊沒有輓的小木頭，又像那個小車沒有那個軌。輓雖然是小木頭，可是也是很重要的；小車雖然是小，但是若沒有那個軌，車就不可以停住。這個「輓」，是往前拉；那個「軌」，大約就是要停住，駕駛者一碰那個木頭，坐到那木頭上，車就站住了，好像是這樣子的。（朱注：「輓，輓端橫木，縛輓以駕牛者。小車，謂田車、兵車、乘車。軌，輓端上曲，鉤衡以駕馬者。車無此二者，則不可以行。」）（編註：「輓、軌」均為車衡上連結車輓之小木頭，今稱之「活塞」。若無輓、軌分別固定大、小車之輓與衡，則兩車均寸步難行矣！）

☞待續

to the Four Schools of Ou, Liu, Yan and Zhao; which refer to Ouyang Xun, Liu Gongquan, Yan Zhenqing, and Zhao Mengfu, respectively. The characters written by these four great calligraphy masters are simply outstanding. Zhao Mengfu's characters consist of both 'flesh' and 'bones,' while Liu Gongquan's characters have 'bones' but no 'flesh.' Yan Zhenqing's characters have 'flesh' but no 'bones' – they appear full-bodied, but do not reveal the 'bones' within. Ouyang Xun's characters are elegant and beautiful. Each of the four masters has his distinct strength, and their characters are all written very well.

When you study Chinese literature, you must practice your calligraphy so that the characters appear upright and proper. As the saying goes: "Not a single stroke is ruffled." Each and every stroke must be well defined and not executed any way you please. Insofar as learning the Chinese script is concerned, you must be careful and pay attention to the details. You may be able to compose beautiful prose, but if your written script is not good, you will have no chance of becoming a top scholar. Therefore, good calligraphy is simply essential. Chinese characters can be written in small regular script or large regular script. There is a type of small script called 'Fly's Head' whereby the characters are so minute that they resemble the head of a housefly. In spite of the tiny size, they are all written distinctly and clearly without even one misplaced stroke. It is only when you learn about Chinese culture that you will come across such things.

The Master said, "If a person is not trustful with others, it is not known what he can amount to." As a person, one must value trustworthiness as well as righteousness. Being trustful means being trustworthy and not telling lies. If you are not trustful, then you are lying. When you tell lies all the time, nobody will believe you anymore. At the sight of you, they will say: "Hey! This person's words are just a pack of lies. There is no truth in what he says." If you waltz on your promises, then you will lose the trust of others and whatever you do simply cannot be accomplished. Who knows what you will be capable of achieving?

When a large cart lacks a dowel and a small cart lacks a pin joint. Such a person can be compared to a big-sized cart with a missing dowel pin, or a small cart that does not have a pin joint. The dowel is a small piece of wood, but nonetheless very important. A small cart may be modest in size, but if it does not have a pin joint, it can't be made to stop. The dowel '輓' (ní) is necessary for the cart to move forward, whereas the pin joint '軌' (yuè) allows the cart driver to stop the horse from moving so that the cart can remain stationary. This is roughly how they work. [Zhu Xi's annotation: '輓' (ní) are the horizontal wooden pins that are used to fasten the ends of the shaft poles to the yoke for driving an ox. 'Small cart' is a generic term for farm cart, military cart or carriage. '軌' (yuè) is the pin joint that hooks the upturned end of the shaft pole onto the crossbar for driving a horse. Any cart that lacks these two components will not be able to move.] [Notes: Both '輓' and '軌' refer to the small wooden pin that fastens the shaft pole to the crossbar of a cart. If there are no dowels or pin joints securing the shaft poles to the crossbars on a large cart and small cart respectively, then both carts will not be able to move even an inch.]

☞To be continued