

The Analects of Confucius (Continued) (續)

《論語淺釋》

【爲政第二】

「其何以行哉」：不管什麼，就是能走、不能走的一個問題，行得通、行不通的一個問題，就是有人相信你、沒有人相信你的問題。你若有信用，就有人相信你；你沒有信用，就沒人相信你。有人相信你，你做什麼事情，都可以做好了；若沒有人相信你，你做什麼事情也做不好的。

(二十三)子張問：「十世可知也？」子曰：「殷因於夏禮，所損益可知也。周因於殷禮，所損益可知也。其或繼周者，雖百世可知也。」

「子張問」：子張這個人，大約也是歡喜神通的，願意知道過去、未來的。所以他就問孔子，「十世可知也」：從現在往後算，算到第十個世代或者三百年以後的事情，能不能知道呢？一世，算三十年。

「子曰」：孔子就說了。「殷因於夏禮」：殷，就是殷朝。由商湯王到殷紂王的期間，就是商朝，也叫「殷」；所以人稱「商湯王」、「殷紂王」。夏、商、周，這是「三代」。因，就是本照、根據。禮，就是所用的禮儀方面的制度。殷就是商湯王滅了夏朝所建立的天下；商湯王是得到夏而繼續夏的天下，所以殷朝也沿襲夏朝的禮序。

「所損益可知也」：所增加的和減少的，就是用的和不用的禮；它或者增



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Chapter 2: To Govern

How are they able to function accordingly? No matter what, it all boils down to the question: Is the cart able or unable to move? Or is it feasible or not? Or do people believe you or not? People will believe you if you are trustworthy. Conversely, nobody will honor your word if you don't keep good faith. Gain the trust of others, and you will always do a

good job regardless of its nature. You will never do anything well if nobody believes in you.

(23) Zizhang inquired, "Is it possible to predict the state of affairs ten generations from now?" The Master replied, "Since the Yin administration was based on the rites of Xia, what was abolished or introduced could be known. Since the Zhou administration was based on the rites of Yin, what was abolished or introduced could also be known. As for the regime that will succeed the Zhou, though it may be a hundred generations later, its state of affairs can be similarly predicted."

Zizhang inquired. This person, Zizhang, was probably quite fond of spiritual penetrations for he was interested in the past and the future. Therefore, he asked Confucius, "Is it possible to predict the state of affairs ten generations from now?" He was curious about the events that would happen ten generations, or rather three hundred years, in the future. The duration of one generation (一世) is thirty years.

The Master replied. Confucius then said. **Since the Yin administration was based on the rites of Xia.** 'Yin' refers to the Yin (or Shang) dynasty, the period between the reigns of King Shang Tang and King Yin Zhou. For this dynasty, the names Yin and Shang are interchangeable. 'Xia', 'Shang' and 'Zhou' are the names of three successive dynastic regimes. The character '因' (yīn) means 'according to' or 'on the basis of'. '禮' (lǐ) refers to the

的什麼，或者減的什麼，我們大家都可以知道的。殷朝所採取的夏朝這種的禮儀，它或者不完全用，它又自己又設立出幾個新的禮來。損益，也就是新舊，也就是新陳代謝的意思；新的添上了，舊的去了；或者舊的保留著，新的也不添了，這叫「損益」。

「周因於殷禮，所損益可知也」：周朝就是周武王得天下以後所建立的朝代；它是本照殷朝的禮節，來或者添多一點，或者減少一點，我們也都知道的，我們都可以查得出來的。「其或繼周者」：因為當時孔子的時候，還是周朝，雖然是周朝末了，但是仍然有周天子；所以他說，將來繼承周朝這種禮儀的國家。會是怎麼樣呢？「雖百世可知也」：雖然就到百世，也可以知道這種的制度、這種的禮；都可以知道的，都可以推算出來。

(二十四)子曰：「非其鬼而祭之，諂也。見義不為，無勇也。」

怎麼叫「非其鬼」呢？這足見當時就很多人祭祀鬼神，就是變成一個「多神派」。那時候一定耶穌也快要出來了，要提倡這個「獨神派」，提倡光棍子神這一派了，所以子張也或者聽見孔子這麼說過？

「子曰」：孔子說，「非其鬼而祭之，諂也」：不是應當祭祀的那種正直無私的鬼，你若祭祀它，這就是你諂媚。也就是你給它賄賂，也就是你向它那兒去給封個紅包，你去買通它。你不應該祭的鬼神，你為什麼要祭它？你祭它，你不是諂媚它是幹什麼？好像那個狐狸精黃皮子，你去到那兒給它叩個頭：「保佑我發財！」喔！它一高興：「好了！讓你撿著一塊金子。」這諂媚鬼神得來的，沒有什麼大意思！這樣得一塊金子，也是等於糞土一樣的，裡頭沒有一種價值。沒價值！

☞待續

institutions governing the implementation of the rites and rituals. The Yin dynasty was established by King Shang Tang after he had vanquished the Xia regime. As he had taken over the kingdom from the Xia rulers, he inherited their code of rites as well.

What was abolished or introduced refers to the rites that were discarded or instituted. All of us are aware of the measures that were introduced or abolished. On inheriting the rites of the Xia dynasty, there were, perhaps, certain items that the Yin dynasty did not want to adopt and instead formulated new ones. In other words, the term '損益' (sūn yì) refers to 'old' and 'new' respectively. It can mean either 'superseding the old with the new' or 'retaining the old system without introducing anything new'.

Since the Zhou administration was based on the rites of Yin, what was abolished or introduced could also be known. The Zhou dynasty was established by King Wu after he assumed control over the empire. He took the rites and protocols of the Yin dynasty as a basis and made some additions or deletions here and there. We can also investigate the details and know what they were. **As for the regime that will succeed the Zhou.** During the time of Confucius, the Zhou dynasty was still in existence. Even though it was nearing the end, the Son of Heaven of the Zhou clan was still on the throne. Here, Confucius is talking about the regime that would inherit the rites of Zhou in the future. What would the situation be like? **Though it may be a hundred generations later, its state of affairs can be similarly predicted.** Even if the new regime were to emerge a hundred generations later, its rites and institutions could be similarly predicted and made known.

(24) The Master said, "He who offers sacrifices to spirits that do not belong to his faith is a sycophant. One who sees a righteous cause but does not act on it is lacking in courage."

What does 'spirits that do not belong to his faith' mean? From this line, it is evident that many people of that era worshiped a plethora of ghosts and spirits, giving rise to polytheism. It must have been around the time when Jesus Christ was about to appear to advocate monotheism and the Christian sect. Zizhang probably heard Confucius mention this before.

The Master said. Confucius said. **He who offers sacrifices to spirits that do not belong to his faith is a sycophant.** If you were to worship and offer sacrifices to spirits that are not upright and selfless, then you are just being a sycophant. It is the same as bribing them with red packets and asking for favors. Why should you perform sacrifices for ghosts and spirits that you have no right to worship? By doing so, what other intention do you have apart from currying favor? For example, you go to the fox spirit and kowtow to it, imploring: "Please help me to strike it rich!" Oh! Once it is happy, it will say, "Fine! I shall let you pick up a gold ingot." Things that are acquired by flattering ghosts and spirits are meaningless. To obtain a gold ingot in this way is the same as obtaining a piece of excrement. There is not value in it at all!

☞To be continued