

Huang Shangu

黃山谷

宣公上人講於1987年6月26日

Commentary by the Venerable Master Hua on June 26, 1987

李淨如 英譯 Translated into English by Crystal Lee



名庭堅，字魯直。北宋江西修水人，喜愛山谷寺之林泉幽雅，自稱山谷居士。母病辭官，侍奉左右，親嘗湯藥，為孝子也。詩詞浪漫，被圓通秀禪師規勸曰：「汝之詩詞，令人生非非想，將受果報，必墮地獄。」知悔不復輕佻，改寫放生詩。

後參黃龍晦堂禪師多年，見僧多悟，而自不悟，頗出怨言，謂「重僧輕俗」。禪師默然。值秋桂花盛開，滿寺院芬芳，香氣撲鼻。是時，居士進寺。禪師曰：「黃居士！嗅香否？」谷嗅之而悟。遂呈偈曰：「說是還家未到家，水邊林下舊生涯；昨夜月明雲散後，西風一樹木樨香。」年六十一卒。著《山谷詩集》行世。

編按：此篇原稿遺失，故由弟子補解。

黃山谷是個孝子，《二十四孝》裏有一則家喻戶曉的故事——滌親溺器，說的就是他。他秉性至孝，自小侍奉父母極真誠而且無微不至。因為母親有潔癖，受不了馬桶的異味，所以他從小就每天親自傾倒並清洗母親所使用的馬桶，數十年如一日。

His first name was Tingjian, and his style name was Luzhi. He came from Xiushui County within Jiangxi Province of China in the Northern Song Dynasty. He admired the beauty and elegance of nature, and the forests and waters that surrounded the Shangu Monastery ("the Monastery of Mountains and Valleys"), and therefore named himself Upasaka Shangu. He was very filial and loving. When his mother fell ill, Shangu resigned from his position as a government official to look after her. Being a filial son, he would personally taste the cooked medicinal herbs before dispensing the dose to his mother. His poetry used to be romantic, so Dhyana Master Yuan Tong Xiu admonished him and said, "Your poetry arouses improper thoughts in people's minds. In the future, you will undergo retribution and definitely fall into the hells." Shangu realized his mistake and repented. He changed his frivolous style and opted instead to compose poems exhorting others to liberate life.

He later followed Dhyana Master Huanglong Huitang for many years, witnessing many Dharma Masters gain awakening. Despite this, he himself was unable to gain awakening. He complained that the emphasis and attention was often placed more on the masters than on the laypeople. Dhyana Master Huitang remained silent in spite of these complaints. That year, Shangu visited the monastery in autumn when the sweet-osmanthus flowers were in full blossom and the entire monastery was filled with their fragrance. Dhyana Master Huitang asked, "Upasaka Shangu! Can you smell the fragrance?" Shangu smelled the air, and he suddenly was enlightened. He then composed a verse that said, "Say that I'm heading home, but I'm not. / In the past I dwelt on a riverbank in the forest. / Last night after the clouds cleared and the moon appeared, / The fragrance of the sweet-osmanthus carried in the westerly breeze." Shangu was sixty-one years old when he died. The *Collected Poems of Shangu* later became a well-known piece of literature in the world.

Commentary:

Editor's note: The original script was lost, so the disciples retold and re-documented the story.

即使日後身為朝中顯貴，也絲毫未嘗忽略照顧侍奉母親，儘管當時僕從甚多，大可不用親自為母親清滌馬桶，但是他認為孝事父母是為人子女親自該做的事，不可以委託他人之手，盡心侍親和在當不當官時是沒有什麼不同的。

當母親病危的時候，黃山谷更是衣不解帶，日夜侍奉在病榻前，親自淺嚐湯藥，沒有一刻未盡到人子的孝道。所以在史書上，蘇東坡讚嘆他「瑰偉之文，妙絕當世；孝友之行，追配古人。」這是說他的文章瑰偉，氣韻超然，無可比擬；而他孝順父母，友愛兄弟的情操，可以媲美古人。

他名庭堅，字魯直，號山谷，是北宋洪州分寧人，也就是現在的江西修水縣。「庭堅」，顧名思義，也就是他非常堅實地盡到家庭的倫常。早年時，他曾經到安徽霍山縣的山谷寺遊歷，那兒幽雅殊勝的山林流泉，使他為之留戀不已，於是自稱為山谷居士（或山谷道人），後世於是稱他黃山谷。

他幼年的時候，就喜好讀書，由於他讀書專注，因此記憶力非常好，有過目不忘的本領。有一回，舅舅到他家，順手取書架上的書，隨口問他，結果發現這個小外甥對答如流，無一不通，而感到驚訝不已。他有一句名言：「吾三日不讀書，便覺面目可憎，言語可厭。」因為他這麼用功讀書，所以學識淵博，其詩、書、畫號稱「三絕」，與當時蘇東坡齊名，人稱「蘇黃」。

他雖然年少時即頗有文才，但也曾走錯路。當時北宋的風氣歡喜男女冶豔的詞章，他受了這種影響，也好填寫浪漫的詞。

◎待續

Huang Shangu was a filial son. There is, in fact, a story that describes Shangu called “Washing His Mother’s Chamber Pot” in the *Twenty-four Exemplars of Family Reverence* known in many households. Ever since he was young, Shangu was already very loving and devoted to his parents, taking care of them with the utmost respect and altruism. His mother preferred everything to be immaculate and clean. She could not stand the smell of the chamber pot. Hence, Shangu had always taken it as part of his daily chores to empty and clean his mother’s chamber pot personally. He had done it every day for many decades. Even when Shangu later became a highly respected government official, he still never neglected his duties of taking care of his mother. Even when there were plenty of servants in the household who could take care of the cleaning, Shangu still believed that serving one’s parents is something that all sons and daughters should do personally, that it is not a responsibility that should be passed on to another person. He believed that being a respected government official did not, and should not affect anything in terms of loving and looking after his parents.

When his mother fell gravely ill, Shangu was of course at her side taking care of her day and night. He personally tasted the medicine for her and there wasn’t a single moment when Shangu wasn’t fulfilling his duties as a filial son. Because of this, even Su Dongpo complimented this filial devotion, saying, “His writing was the most amazing at this time. His filial example is comparable to those of the ancients.” In essence, this describes Shangu’s writing as brilliant, outstanding, and incomparable. Shangu’s filial respect and his love for his friends and family could compare favorably even with that of the people of old.

His first name was Tingjian, his style name was Luzhi, and his alias is Shangu. He came from Fenning County of Hongzhou Province in the Northern Song Dynasty, which is now known as the Xiushui County of Jiangxi Province. His name, Tingjian, means “strength and devotion to the family.” In his earlier years, Shangu once visited Shangu Monastery (“Monastery of Mountains and Valleys”) in Huoshan County of Anhui Province. The monastery was surrounded by a beautiful panorama of mountains, streams, valleys, and trees. He fell in love with the place, and thus called himself Upasaka Shangu (or Shangu cultivator). Hereafter he became known as Huang Shangu.

He already enjoyed studying and reading books as a child. Because of the time and attention he had devoted to reading and studying, Shangu could remember things very clearly and had in fact developed photographic memory. One time, his uncle randomly asked him a question from one of the books he took from the shelf. He was utterly taken aback by the way his nephew was able to answer so thoroughly and fluently about everything. There wasn’t a single thing that Shangu didn’t know. One of Shangu’s famous quotes says, “If I don’t read for three days, I find that my face looks uglier and that my words are more detestable.” Because of this dedication and diligence, Shangu was extremely intelligent on many levels. He had outstanding talent in three areas -- poetry, calligraphy, and painting. His work was actually on par with that of Su Dongpo. In fact, the two of them were collectively known as “Su and Huang” at the time.

Although he was very talented in his youth, Shangu also made many mistakes. At that time in the Northern Song Dynasty, the culture particularly emphasized romantic literature focusing on relationships between men and women. Shangu was affected by this societal trend and thus wrote extensively on such themes. ◎To be continued