

論語淺釋 (續)

The Analects of Confucius

(continued)



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Lectures by the Venerable Master Hua

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【八佾第三】

【上人講解】

「第一的博士」講的，比我講得更好，你們各位把它記錄下來已經夠了。那麼等到你們都把它先給我念熟了，我再教你們的時候，就要開始背了。我以前教你們這兩課，都要給我背出來；我給你們一個時間，等到下個禮拜。我今天先不叫你們背上個禮拜的，恐怕你們還沒有讀好；那麼下個禮拜，每一個人都要給我背。背不出來，我就罰跪；再背不出來，就罰不要睡覺；再背不出來，就要罰不吃飯。看你怎麼辦？嘿！看你怕不怕？

前邊這一段，是子夏問《詩經》這三句的意思。《詩經》，是在列國以前（編按：指西周時期，連夏朝、商朝都包括在內）到列國中期（編按：指孔子刪詩之前的那段春秋時期）的時候，大家寫出來的一些個民謠，那上面顯示出十五國的風化；所以由詩裡邊，就知道當時的風土人情。這是當時流行的歌曲，孔子把它集中到一起，有三百篇那麼多。所以孔子說：「詩三百，一言以蔽之，思無邪。」這個「思」，不要有那些個邪念，這是最要緊的。

「子夏問曰」：子夏姓卜，名商，字子

Chapter 3: Eight Rows of Eight Dancers

As the foremost doctorate-holder's explanation is far better than mine, all of you can jot it down and that will be good enough. After you have studied the text thoroughly, you'll have to recite it from memory, starting from the next lesson. Recite for me what I have taught you in the last two lessons. I'll give you some time; let's wait till next week. Today, I won't ask you to recite last week's lesson because you may not have yet learned it well enough. Next week, everyone will have to recite it for me. If you can't, then you'll have to kneel as a punishment. After that, if you still can't recite, you will not be allowed to sleep. If this fails too, then there shall be no food for you. Let's see how you will take it. Heh! Heh! Are you scared already?

In the first part of this passage, Zixia is asking about three lines taken from the *Book of Songs*. This is a collection of folk songs that existed from the pre-feudal states period [Editor's Note: This refers to the time of the Western Zhou Dynasty, including the Xia and Shang Dynasties] to the mid-feudal states period [Editor's Note: This refers to that time during the Spring and Autumn Period prior to Confucius' culling of the Songs]. They are a reflection of the morals and manners of fifteen feudal states. By reading the poems, which were pop songs of that era, one could get an idea of the local customs and practices back then. These popular folk songs that Confucius compiled numbered more than three hundred, altogether. Earlier, when Confucius said: "The Poems comprise three hundred pieces that, in a single phrase, can be collectively described as 'thoughts untainted,'" the most important thing about 'thoughts' (思sī) is that they must not be deviant thoughts.

夏。這個學生大約是很會做學問的，什麼事情就想查根問底，要研究個明白。這三句詩他不懂，所以他就問孔子說，這是《詩經》上說的。

「巧笑倩兮」：這個女人笑得很美麗的，很巧妙的，令人很歡喜的。「美目盼兮」：她那個眼睛，非常的 beautiful（美麗的），那個眼睛令人都很迷的；盼兮，她若看一看你，把你看得就想入非非了！「素以爲絢兮」：那麼她以最樸素的這種質地，再加上一點莊嚴修飾，把絢爛的那種的華美陪襯起來，這是很好的。「何謂也」：爲什麼要這麼講呢？〈詩經〉上說這個幹什麼？

「子曰」：孔子就很簡單地答覆他。「繪事後素」：那就好像畫畫，你要準備一個畫的底子，那畫的底子也要很潔白的，那裡頭沒有什麼邋邋的；所以你若想畫畫，先要找一張乾淨的紙，或者在乾淨的綢子、緞子、絹子，來好好畫一畫。

「曰：禮後乎」：子夏說，哦！原來我們人無論做什麼事情，禮都在後邊？要合乎禮儀啊，是要先本乎素誠的心，以後再去行繁複的禮儀啊？

「子曰」：所以孔子特別嘉許他了，就說，「起予者商也」：能幫助我把事情更說明白一點、更了解清楚一點，就是誰呢？就是子夏，就是這個卜商！他姓卜，名商，字子夏；它這個意思合起來，就是「商、夏」兩個字，他的名字，也就是個朝代的名字—夏、商。「始可與言詩已矣」：從今天之後，我才可以同你共同研究《詩經》的道理了！已矣，是表示一種確定的語氣，就是你才夠這資格了！這簡單的意思是這樣子。

果普頭先講的，比我講得更清楚，所以你們各位注意，你不要單單注意我講的；誰講的，誰念的，都要注意。你一注意，在你那八識田裡就經過多一次，就記得！所以這是很好的一個辦法。那麼下個禮拜我如果再教完了，四點到五點那個期間，就要來給我背書了！不背書，我就不給你們上課了，我要你們給我上課。

Zixia inquired. Zixia's surname was Bu and his name was Shang, styled Zixia. This student was probably an academic type, for he was interested in the whys and wherefores of everything. As he didn't understand these three lines in the *Book of Songs*, he sought clarification from Confucius.

Her sweet smile is charming indeed. This maiden has such a sweet and charming smile that everyone is fond of her. **Her pretty eyes so clear and bright.** Her eyes are extremely beautiful and captivating. If she were to take one glance at you, your imagination would run wild! **With her simple features, how gorgeous she looks!** Possessing such simple and plain qualities, she wears elegant adornments and make-up, which set off her refined beauty all the more. This is absolutely fantastic! **What does this mean?** Why is she described in this way? Why does the *Book of Songs* talk about such things?

The Master replied. In a few simple words, Confucius replied to him. **The paintwork is executed on top of the white background.** It is the same as in painting where you have to prepare a good-quality base that is very clean and white without any stains or blemishes. If you want to paint a picture, you first have to find a piece of clean paper. It can also be done on a piece of clean silk fabric, satin, or tulle.

Zixia asked, "Does this mean that the rites serve as a backdrop?" Zixia exclaimed, "Oh! So it turns out that the rites govern everything that we do? Does it mean that we have to accord with the rites and protocols? Is it the case that we should first start off with a simple and sincere mind as the basis, and then put into practice the complicated rules of etiquette?"

The Master exclaimed. For this reason, Confucius singled him out for commendation, saying: "**Shang, you are one who inspires me!**" Who can help me explain things a little clearer? It is none other than Zixia, Bu Shang! He has the surname Bu, personal name Shang and style name Zixia. His name comprises the characters '商' (shāng) and '夏' (xià), the names of the two preceding dynasties. Therefore, **I may now begin to discuss the Songs with you.** From today onwards, I can investigate the principles contained in the *Book of Songs* together with you! '已矣' (yǐ yǐ) is an auxiliary term that represents an affirmative mood, which means you are now qualified! This is the gist of the passage.

Just now, Guo Pu gave a much clearer explanation than I did, so all of you should take note of it. Do not just pay attention solely to my commentary. The same applies to whoever explains or recites the text. Once you pay attention, the subject matter will pass through the field of your eighth consciousness one more time. This is an excellent method for memorizing information. Now, next week when I finish lecturing, the one-hour period from four to five o'clock will be set aside for you to recite the text from memory! If you can't recite it, then you'll have to conduct the lesson in my place!