

黃山谷 (續)

Huang Shangu

(continued)

宣公上人講於1987年6月26日

Commentary by the Venerable Master Hua on June 26, 1987

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Translated into English by Crystal Lee



說是往回家的路上走，卻沒回到家，原來我過去是個在水邊林下修行的僧人。平時聞香不知香，直到昨夜經禪師一指破，雲散明月現，才嗅得西風吹來滿樹的桂花飄香，知道香的真味。這意思也就是說，我們在迷途之中，不知自有佛性，一經點破，才知道佛性在自心，莫向外馳求。

黃山谷個性正直，不趨炎附勢、同流合污，故一生仕途多舛，屢遭貶謫，然而他卻處之泰然。例如他當太史官時，依據史實寫下史書，而當時小人當權，質其史書寫得不對，黃山谷卻始終確立立場，不因爲討好小人，而修改史書，故即使被貶到荒涼之地，還是安然若素。他年六十一歲往生，著有《山谷詩集》行於世上。

贊曰：

山谷幽香 源遠流芳
錯生濁世 行為荒唐

This means that he actually had not gone home even when he was treading the path that led to his house. In one of his past lives, he was a monk cultivating on a riverbank in the woods. He wasn't able to smell the fragrance before, regardless of its constant presence in the air. But last night, Master Huang Long showed him the Way. It was like clearing away the clouds that were previously obscuring the moon. He finally was able to smell the fragrance of the sweet-osmanthus flowers in the air, and finally appreciated the true taste of that smell. This signifies that when we're lost, we don't realize our innate Buddha-nature. But when the time comes for us to understand, we finally realize that the Buddha-nature has always been in our minds. There was never the need to seek it from the outside.

Huang Shangu was straightforward and honest. He never went after power or fame, and never fell for corruption. His entire life and official career was rather difficult and was often treated unjustly and relegated many times. Regardless, he was able to handle all these vicissitudes calmly and peacefully. There was a time when he was still in court serving as the imperial historian. At that time, a villain was in power. He accused Huang Shangu of being erroneous in writing their history. Huang Shangu stood his position and refused to make revisions just to please that villain. This cost him his position, and he was subsequently exiled to a bleak land. Despite all this, Shangu still handled it with ease. He eventually died at age sixty-one, but the *Collected Poems of Shangu* lives on as his legacy.

迷途知返 桂花飄香
觸鼻開悟 不再徜徉

「山谷幽香，源遠流芳」：他本來像生長在靜謐山谷裏的桂花，發出陣陣的幽香，芬芳遠播，源源不斷。

「錯生濁世，行為荒唐」：可是錯生到這濁亂的世界，被環境所染，也跟著做出一些舉止荒唐的行為，不認識自己本來的面目了。

「迷途知返，桂花飄香」：幸虧他有善根，經善知識的指點後，迷途知返，不再荒唐，所以又像桂花一樣，飄出陣陣的幽香。

「觸鼻開悟，不再徜徉」：他聞到桂花的香，忽然開悟，知道香的真味，不再漫無方向地徘徊了。

A Verse in Praise:

The delicate fragrance of Shangu drifts afar,
But mistakenly born into this mundane world,
His behavior was absurd and incongruous.
He had lost his path, but knew how to turn back.
The fragrance of the sweet-osmanthus flowers emanated once more.
It reached his nose and brought awakening.
He no longer wandered.

Commentary:

The delicate fragrance of Shangu drifts afar. He was like a sweet-osmanthus flower that blossoms in a peaceful valley; the fragrance it emanates spreads afar and is never-ending.

But mistakenly born into this mundane world, / his behavior absurd and incongruous. But he was born into this complicated and chaotic world; he got tainted by the surroundings and under its influence did some inappropriate deeds, entirely oblivious to the nature and identity of his real self.

He had lost his path, but knew how to turn back. / The fragrance of the sweet osmanthus flower emanated once more. Luckily, he had wisdom. Having been directed by a good and wise advisor, he knew to return to the righteous path after he realized his mistake. He no longer followed his prior absurd and erroneous ways. Because of this, he was again like a sweet-osmanthus flower, emanating a fresh delicate fragrance that spreads afar.

It reached his nose and brought awakening. / He no longer wandered. He smelled the fragrance of the sweet-osmanthus flowers and attained enlightenment all of a sudden. He no longer wandered aimlessly.

待續

To be continued



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