

# 論語淺釋

## The Analects of Confucius

宣化上人講

楊維光、劉年聰 英譯

Lectures by the Venerable Master Hua

English translation by Yong Wei Kwong and Liew Yen Chong

### 【八佾第三】

(十三) 王孫賈問曰：「『與其媚於奧，寧媚於灶』，何謂也？」子曰：「不然！獲罪於天，無所禱也。」

#### 【恆賢師講解】

孔子先說有一個王孫賈，就是一個作官的人，在衛國，就是在孔子的魯國的旁邊，南西方有這個國家，他是很有權力的一個人。他去問孔子一件事情，「與其媚於奧」：奧是在家裡一個很尊貴的一個地方，就是祭祀祖先的地方，在一個西南的隅、在角裡邊。可是他說，「寧媚於灶」：就是尊重這個地方，不如尊重這個「灶」。灶是鍋爐的地方，就是做飯之類，有一個神在這個地方。所以意思是這個「灶」是每天要用的，「奧」的地方雖然尊貴，就不是每天能有這樣的用。

可是孔子不同意。他說，「不然。獲罪於天。無所禱也」：後面的意思就是王孫賈要孔子認識他在這個國家很有權力，所以孔子要對他好。可是平時孔子就是尊重神的，不是關心權利的問題。因為他不對，所以孔子的意思就是這個王孫賈造的很多的罪孽，在什麼地方祭祀鬼神都沒有用的。

上人：她講的你們大家懂了沒懂？果麗，

### Chapter 3: Eight Rows of Eight Dancers

(13) Wang Sunjia inquired, "There is a saying: *Rather than fawning on the resident spirit in the southwest corner, it is better to please the kitchen god instead.* What is the meaning of this?"

The Master replied, "That is incorrect! If one offends the heavens, there is none to whom one can beseech with prayers."

#### [Bhikshuni Heng Hsien's Explanation]

Confucius mentioned a person called Wang Sunjia, an official in the State of Wei, which was a neighboring state located to the southwest of Confucius' own State of Lu. A very powerful official, he asked Confucius about this matter: *Rather than fawning on the resident spirit in the southwest corner.* '奧' (ào) refers to the southwest corner of a house, a sacred location reserved for ancestral worship. *It is better to please the kitchen god instead.* Then, he wanted to know whether it would be preferable to pay respects to the '灶' (zào), meaning the kitchen god, who was in charge of the stove and food preparation area. In other words, the stove is a place that is used every day, whereas the southwest corner is not frequently used every day, even though it is a privileged part of the house.

However, Confucius disagreed, saying, "That is incorrect! If one offends the heavens, there is none to whom one can beseech with prayers." Wang Sunjia's underlying intention was to imply to Confucius that he was a very powerful figure in this state and that Confucius should fawn on him. Ordinarily, Confucius adopted a respectful attitude towards the spirits and did not bother about pandering to figures of authority. As Wang's opinion was wrong, Confucius hinted to him that he had created numerous offenses and that offering sacrifices to the ghosts and spirits at any location was of no use at all.

你懂了沒有？出來給大家講一講！你要趾高氣昂的，不要那麼頭低低的，來！快給大家講講。我們這兒誰都是老師，誰都是學生。慢慢講，你不要著急！不要怕！你要很定的，要真像個老師的樣子，不要像學生。你教他們可以拿這個教鞭，誰若不聽話就可以打。OK？先講中文，然後講英文。你有什麼意見都可以隨便講、隨便發揮；我們這兒是很民主的，OK！

\* \* \* \*

我今天教你們怎麼樣念，你們都把它念熟了，我下一堂課的時候再給你們講。以後我寧可少教，你們都要給我背得出。男界，女界都是一齊，站出來背。這樣子誰不能背的，大家也知道他是個懶學生了！每一次上課，先要背以前我所教的，然後我再講；如果你不能背，我就不給你講。

你們面對面，不會背的看著那會背的，會背的看著那不會背的，背給他們聽。這樣哪個懶惰，哪個不懶惰，就都知道了！你看這個辦法好不好？教學有很多不同的方法，我用出很多的方法來比較，來教你們。因為我這麼老了，教你們這些個小學生，你們不注意，和我「哈哈」，這個不行的！

☞待續

**Venerable Master:** Do all of you understand her explanation? Guo Li, do you understand? Yes or no? You do? Then come out to the front and tell everyone about it. Come over here! Strike up your spirits and show some confidence; don't lower your head like that. Come here, quick! Tell us what you know. Here, everyone is a teacher and a student at the same time. Speak slowly, don't be so nervous! There is nothing to be afraid of. You must be calm and steady just like a teacher; don't be like a student. When teaching them, you can hold this pointer and use it to whack anyone who disobeys. Ok? Explain in Chinese first, followed by English. Whatever opinions you have, feel free to voice them and elaborate further. We are very democratic here, ok?

\* \* \* \*

Today, I have taught you how to recite these passages. Learn them by heart and I will explain to you in the next lesson. From now on, I'd rather teach less, on the condition that all of you must be able to recite the text from memory. The same goes for all the men and women. Everyone has to stand out here and recite the text. In this way, we will know that whoever cannot recite from memory is a lazy student! In every lesson, we will begin by having people recite the passages that I taught in the previous lectures before I proceed to explain the current passage. If you can't recite, then there shall be no commentaries for you.

Stand facing each other so that those who have memorized the text can recite it for those who cannot. Who is lazy and who is not – all will be exposed! Do you think this method is effective or not? There are many different ways to teach students and, in the course of teaching all of you, I have employed numerous techniques as a comparison. I am an elderly person trying to teach you youngsters, and yet you don't pay any attention but just laugh "Ha! Ha! Ha!" at me. This is unacceptable!

☞To be continued



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