

禮節，禮序，按著這個禮樂的次第去作去，去支配他，去駕馭他，不可以冒冒失失的，很粗氣的。你作皇帝要很有禮貌的，也就是這個「溫良恭儉讓」，你也是要有一種禮貌，你不可以對臣下很粗的，要用禮節。

「臣事君以忠」：這個臣下怎麼樣為國君服務？就要盡上自己的忠心。什麼叫忠心呢？「盡己之謂忠」，你能把自己的這個責任盡了，沒有荒疏職守，沒有把自己的職務那麼不盡職；你能盡職，這就是盡忠。「忠以持己，恕以待人」，這個忠心，就是要盡上自己的一種責任；你盡責任，能以不狡猾，這就是忠。那麼孔子這樣答覆他。

我們現在的人，大家要深深地懂得這一段〈論語〉，這是教我們人怎麼樣做人，怎麼樣對社會。現在的國家是總統，我們也應效法古人對皇帝的這種的禮貌，用它來恭敬總統。一個國家的元首，大家應該恭敬他，應該對他有一種禮敬；不應該今天也罵總統，明天也罵總統，我們不應該罵的，罵就是犯上了。

這是現在你對社會，對全人類盡上你的責任，這就是忠了，就是忠於國家，忠於社會，忠於元首。所以我們各位在這一點上，應該要特別注意到。

我們作一個人的時候，無論如何要對國家盡忠心，我們自己的國家，你們每一個人對自己的國家都應該負起一份的責任來，不應該把這個國家看得和自己不是一個，所以各位，這一點要切記切記的。

下午對對聯，還是兩點半。今天晚間講《涅槃經》，我來了，天氣又暖和了，一定把你們大家逼得出幾身汗！OK。

☞待續

佛法在世間 不離世間覺
離世覓菩提 恰如求兔角

—《六祖法寶壇經》

vernacular Chinese, it means, “What should be done?”

Confucius addressed the duke, saying. Thereupon, Confucius replied to the duke in this way: “A sovereign should employ his officials with civility.” As a ruler, you should issue commands to your officials according to rites, rules of etiquette and protocols. Apply the code of rites and music step-by-step in order to govern and control them. Do not be inconsiderate or rude towards them. As an emperor, you must be refined and well mannered. In other words, be gentle, kind, courteous, restrained and magnanimous. You ought to maintain a respectful demeanor for it is very unbecoming to adopt a rude and crude attitude towards your officials. You have to apply the rules of etiquette.

Officials should serve their sovereign with loyalty. As an official and subject, how should you go about serving the state ruler? You must conduct yourself with utmost loyalty. What, then, is loyalty? There is a saying: To do one’s best is called loyalty. If you are able to fulfill your responsibilities and discharge your duties conscientiously, that is being loyal. There is another saying: Conduct oneself with loyalty; be magnanimous in treating others. To be loyal is to exert one’s sense of responsibility. If you carry out your duties faithfully without resorting to any cunning tricks, just that is loyalty. This was how Confucius answered him.

Modern-day people should all study and understand this passage of the Analects. It teaches us how to be proper persons and how we should treat others in society. Although we have a President in this country, we still ought to learn the courtesies of the ancients in the way they served the emperor, and adopt a similar attitude of respect towards a President. Everyone should be respectful to the head of state in his country and express reverence for him. It is not right to scold a President one day and hurl abuse at him the next. Once we do that, it is considered insubordination.

Now, if you could fulfill your responsibilities towards society, or indeed the whole of humanity, that would make you a loyal person. It is expressing one’s loyalty to the country, to society and to the head of state. Therefore, all of us ought to pay special attention to this point.

As people, we must, under all circumstances, be loyal to the country—our own country. Each and every one of you should take personal responsibility towards your own country and not look upon it as an entity that is apart from yourself. This is something that all of you must always remember.

We are having the couplet matching class at half-past two in the afternoon. Tonight, I will be lecturing on the *Parinirvana Sutra*. Since I came, the weather has been rather warm. All of you must have been sweating quite a lot! Ok.

☞To be continued

*The Buddhadharma is here in the world,
Enlightenment is not apart from awakening of the world.
To search for Bodhi apart from the world,
Is like looking for a hare with horns.*

— from the “Six Patriarch’s Sutra”