



# 流連辭賦——蕭昭明

Enamored with Poetry —

## Xiao ZhaoMing

宣化上人講述於1987年8月21日

周果如 英譯

Lectured by the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua on August 21, 1987



BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

姓蕭，名統，字德施，梁武帝之太子。天性仁孝，行為正直，資質明敏，喜愛文學，得力於劉勰（《文心雕龍》作者）。勰於佛教始謗終信，後出家為慧地法師。太子受其父薰染，篤信佛教，喜誦《金剛經》，將該經分為三十二分。

一生精力，集中於古今文學，蒐集秦漢至齊梁之詩文，編成文選，後人稱為《昭明文選》。古今總彙，是書為弁冕，為後世作文準繩。惜年三十一卒，諡為昭明。蕭氏文學造詣頗深，對宮體文有所創作。

我們人在世界上起惑、造業、受報，在業海裏漂來漂去，找不著邊際。有的人執著到財上，有的人執著到色上，有的人執著到名上，有的人執著

The Crown Prince's family name is Xiao, his personal name, Tong, and his style-name, De Shi. He was the son of Emperor Wu of the Liang Dynasty. His natural disposition was humane and filial, and his conduct was upright and straightforward. He was fond of literature and was especially knowledgeable about the work of Liu Xie, who was the author of *The Literary Mind and the Carving of Dragons*, a treatise in literary criticism. Liu Xie first slandered Buddhism but later came to believe in the Buddha. Eventually he left the home-life and became Dharma Master Hui Di. The Crown Prince, deeply influenced by his father, also became a devoted Buddhist. He liked to recite *the Vajra Sutra*, and divided that sutra into thirty-two sections.

His entire life's energy was devoted to classical and contemporary literature, collecting all literary works from poems and compositions from the Qin and Han dynasties, all the way through the Qi and Liang dynasties, and compiled them into an anthology. This was known to posterity as *the Zhao Ming Anthology*. Among all collections of ancient and modern works, this anthology is considered the very best and a standard for literary trends of later generations. It is a shame that the prince died when he was only thirty-one. His posthumous title was Zhao Ming. He achieved great distinction in the field of literature and was particularly innovative in the area of palace-style writing.

People in the world give rise to delusions, create karma, and undergo retribution. We drift back and forth in the sea of karma and cannot find its shore. Some people are attached to wealth, others to sex, fame, food or sleep. Some people will not give up sleep no matter what you offer to them. These are the five great matters—wealth, sex, fame, food, and sleep. If one is not attached to one thing, then one is attached to another. Even many seasoned

吃的，有的人執著睡的，若不睡覺說什麼也不行。財、色、名、食、睡——這五件大事，不是著於此，便是著於彼。很多老修行也都墮落到這五座無底的深坑裏，一掉進去就不容易出來，因為它沒有底，沒有邊際。

蕭昭明，「昭明」不是他的名字，而是他的諡號。諡號是人死後所追加的名號，在他生前沒有這個名字。什麼是他的名呢？「統」。「統」就是總而言之、統而言之。蕭統，是他父親梁武帝給起的名字。為什麼叫統？就是叫他統一。為什麼要統一？因為南北朝的時候有很多國家，很多人都想要做皇帝。而梁武帝在位時沒有能統一天下，就希望他這個兒子能統一天下，所以叫「統」，他的字叫「德施」。

本來「德施」和「統」根本沒有關連的，這是因為他父親想：天下統一後，應該以德施於民，所以叫德施。從他這個名字，就知道他父親為自己兒子命名的苦心，希望他統一天下，然後發政施仁，能對老百姓好一點。我相信梁武帝對他這個太子的心意是這樣的。

蕭統天性仁孝，生來就很仁慈。仁就是不願意殺生，孝就是不忘本，所謂「孝悌也者，其為人之本歟」。他行為正直，正就是不偏，直就是不曲；又可說正就是剛正，有骨氣，很正派。他資質明敏，「資」就是本錢，他的本錢很好，因為他宿世修福修慧，所以今生很聰明、很敏捷。

他喜歡文學，這是他的執著。他最欣賞的是《文心雕龍》的作者劉勰，劉勰做事沒有常性，起先著書立說來譏諷佛教，最後迷途知返，就出家了，成為慧地法師。

那麼蕭統喜歡他的著作，所以也就學著劉勰來著作。蕭統蒐集了秦、漢到齊梁這幾代的文學，包含詩詞歌賦都蒐集到一起，用畢生的精力來研究，並且作出一部專集，這就是後人所稱的《昭明文選》。這是他集腋成裘（意即用很多狐狸腋下的皮，做成一件皮襖，所以很值錢），選出文章裏最好的，他最欣賞的，作成一部專集。這算是他的著作，但不是他自己所寫的。

待續

cultivators fall into these five deep, bottomless pits and find it hard to get out. There is no end or limit to these pits.

**Xiao, Zhao Ming.** Zhao Ming was not his name, but his posthumous title. When he was alive, Crown Prince Zhao Ming's personal name was Tong which means "to unite," or "in general." Xiao, Tong was a name given by his father, Emperor Wu of Liang. Why was he called Tong? It meant, for him, to unite all the states. Why was that? It was because there were many states that thrived during the South and North dynasties period, and many people wanted to be emperors. Emperor Wu of Liang could not unite the entire country during his reign, and so he hoped that his son would bring the country under one rule. That was why he named his son Tong, "to unite." The Prince was also named De Shi ("bestowing virtue").

Basically, there is no connection between the name De Shi and Tong. However, his father thought that after the country was united, he should bestow virtue upon his citizens. Hence, he named his son De Shi. From this name, we know that his father had great expectations for his son. It was his hope that he would unite the country, bestow virtue upon the people, and govern the country with humaneness. I believe that Emperor Wu of Liang had this intention for his crown prince.

**Xiao Tong's natural disposition was humane and filial.** Humane means being kind and not winning, mshing to kill. Being filial means not forgetting one's roots. It is said, "Filial respect and fraternal love are the roots of being human." **His conduct was upright and straightforward.** "Upright" means being unbiased. "Straightforward" means not crooked; it can also mean principled with solid, moral integrity, and very decent. **Born bright and apt**—that was his natural endowment. It means his natural temperament was superior because he had cultivated blessings and wisdom for many lifetimes in the past. Therefore, in this life, he was very intelligent, sharp, and adroit.

He was fond of literature, which was his attachment. His favorite was the author was Liu Xie, the writer of *The Literary Mind and the Carving of Dragons*. Liu Xie was rather inconsistent in his behaviors. First he wrote a book to slander Buddhism. Afterwards, he realized that he had strayed off track and found his way back. In the end he left the home-life and became Dharma Master Hui Di ("Wisdom Ground").

Xiao Tong was especially fond of Liu Xie's writings. So, he emulated Liu Xie and became a writer. He collected all the literary works, poems, and compositions spanning from the Qin and Han Dynasties all the way through the Qi and Liang Dynasties, and devoted his entire life's energy to study them. He compiled an anthology known to posterity as the *Zhao Ming Anthology*. As the saying goes, "Collecting bits of fur under foxes' forelegs to make a coat." This means collecting a lot of good fur to make a very expensive fur coat. Likewise, he selected the very best of his favorites to compile an anthology. This was his book but it was not written by him.

To be continued