

論語淺釋 (續)

The Analects of Confucius

(continued)

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



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【八佾第三】

(二十二) 子曰：「管仲之器小哉！」或曰：「管仲儉乎？」曰：「管氏有三歸，官事不攝，焉得儉？」「然則管仲知禮乎？」曰：「邦君樹塞門，管氏亦樹塞門；邦君為兩君好，有反坫，管氏亦有反坫。管氏而知禮，孰不知禮？」

「子曰」：孔子說。「管仲之器小哉」：管仲的器量太小了！「或曰」：有人聽見孔夫子這麼講，以為是說管仲太節儉，太小氣，就說了；「管仲儉乎」：管仲很節儉嗎？「曰」：孔子就說，「管氏有三歸」：管仲有三個家，有三個太太，這是兩個意思；又有一個意思：管仲有一座華麗的「三歸臺」；還有一個意思：管仲有一個藏錢的府庫叫「三歸」。「官事不攝」：官事，是指公事；他辦公家的事，員工都不兼攝

Chapter 3: Eight Rows of Eight Dancers

(22) Confucius said, “Guan Zhong is quite limited in capacity!” Someone might also ask, “Isn’t he frugal?”

Confucius replied, “Guan Zhong has three wives (pronounced as *San Gui*)”. Every officer of his only performed one single function. How could he be considered frugal?”

“Doesn’t Guan Zhong also understand the rules of propriety?”

Confucius said, “The king of the state set up a special screen at his door as a partition. Guan Zhong also had such a screen at his door. When the kings of states had friendly meetings, they have a stand to return their wine glasses after the toast. Guan Zhong also has such a stand. If Guan Zhong understood propriety, then who doesn’t?”

Confucius said, “Guan Zhong is quite limited in capacity!” Guan Zhong is very small-minded! **Someone might ask** – someone heard Confucius made this statement and thought he meant Guan Zhong was too sparing and stingy. Therefore, this person asked, “Isn’t he frugal?” Is Guan Zhong very thrifty? Confucius said, “Guan has three wives (*San Gui*), which also meant he has three homes. These are two ways of explaining *San Gui*. *San Gui* also

職務；就一個蘿蔔一個坑，一個人做一件事，這叫「不攝」，這是一種人員的浪費。「焉得儉」：他怎麼能說是個節儉的人呢？

這個問的人又問說，「然則管仲知禮乎」：那麼管仲算是知道禮法吧？

「曰」：孔子就說，「邦君樹塞門」：國君立屏風來遮著門。樹，是樹立，就是立起來。立起來一個屏風，來遮著門，好有個內外之分。「管氏亦樹塞門」：管仲也立個屏風來遮著門。

「邦君為兩君好」：國君為了兩國君王的外交會面而宴客，「有反坫」：反坫，是國君在大廳堂宴客時，在兩根大柱子中間，設一張小桌子，獻酒完了，好放空酒杯。「管氏亦有反坫」：管仲宴客時，也在兩根大柱子中間設一張小酒臺。「管氏而知禮，孰不知禮」：而，是如果；如果管仲算是知禮的話，那麼還有誰算是不知禮的呢？孔夫子這意思，就是說管仲不知禮。

☞待續

referred to an extravagant dais Guan Zhong owned. *San Gui* also meant a repository that Guan Zhong used to store his money. **Every officer of his only performed one single official function.** Official function means government affairs. Guan Zhong's officers, each of them, only had one single duty, not multiple. This means one man on one task only and that was it. Utilizing resources this way is a waste of manpower. **How could he be considered frugal?** How could you say that Guan Zhong was a thrifty person?

The inquirer asked again, "Doesn't Guan Zhong also understand the rules of propriety?" Well, Guan Zhong knows propriety, right?

Confucius said, "The king of the state set up a special screen at his door as a partition. The ruler of the state had a screen to separate the space. Set up means to raise and erect a screen to divide the space so that there is a distinction between the inside and the outside. **Guan Zhong also had such a screen at his door.** Guan Zhong also set up a screen to do the same thing.

When kings of states had friendly meetings—the rulers, for the sake of diplomatic affairs, would host a state banquet. **They had a stand to return their wine glasses after the toast.** When the ruler had a banquet for guests, a small table was set up in between the two pillars in the ball room. After the toast, empty glasses could be returned to that table.

Guan Zhong also had such a stand. When Guan Zhong threw a banquet, he also set up a table in between the two pillars room (like rulers did). **If Guan Zhong understood propriety, then who doesn't?** If Guan Zhong is considered a person who knows the rules of propriety, then who doesn't know propriety. What Confucius meant was that Guan Zhong knows nothing about propriety.

☞To be continued



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