

破缸救友— 司馬光

Smashing A Water Vat to
Save a Drowning Friend—

Sima Guang

宣化上人講述於1987年6月12日

葛親孝、張敏 合譯

Lectured by the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua on June 12, 1987

English translation by Miguel Gracia and Min Zhang



BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

姓司馬，名光，字君實，北宋河南夏縣人。一生忠孝，恭儉正直。仁宗時為相，忠君愛國，封為溫國公，思想古老。神宗時，於洛陽撰資治通鑑，以歷代治亂興亡為借鏡，除政治得失之外，他事不錄；與司馬遷齊名，稱「前後兩司馬」。

哲宗時，復為宰相。新法為民，害者盡除之。惜八月而卒，諡為文正。終身真言實語不妄語，居家不欺親，為國不欺君，仰不欺天，俯不欺地，正人君子也。每逢十月下元節，就寺齋僧誦經，超荐祖先，有慎終追遠、民德歸厚之風。

司馬光是宋朝的一位賢宰相、一位清官。他複姓司馬，名字叫光，字君實，是北宋河南夏縣

Sima Guang's given name was Guang and his courtesy name was Junshi. He lived during the Northern Song dynasty and was from the county of Xia, Henan Province. When he was young, he smashed a large clay urn to save a peer who was drowning. This is just one indicator of the many aspects of his noble character, including loyalty, filial respect, frugality, and integrity. Later he was appointed as the prime minister during the reign of Emperor Renzong. He was devoted to the country and loyal to the emperor, always honoring the traditions, and was awarded the Duke of the State of Wen. During the reign of Emperor Shenzong, he compiled *The Comprehensive Mirror to Aid in Government* in Luoyang. Including only political affairs, this book takes the ebb and flow of past dynasties for current rulers to study and mirror. He was as famous as Sima Qian (the famous grand historian of the Han dynasty). Two of them, Sima Qian and Sima Guang, were so revered that people called them "the Two Simas."

During emperor Zhezong's reign, Sima Guang again became the prime minister, and eliminated all the harmful policies left by the previous prime minister Wang Anshi's Reforms. He served in this post for eight months and, unfortunately, passed away in office. He was awarded the posthumous title of Wenzhen. All through his life he was an absolutely honest man. In private, he never held anything back from his family; in office, he never deceived the emperor. "Above, he never deceived Heaven, and below, he never deluded the earth." He was a true gentleman. Every year on the fifteenth of the tenth lunar month, he would offer meals to the monks and join them in reciting sutras on behalf of his ancestors. As it was said, "Let there be a careful

人。他一生純忠純孝，有溫良恭儉讓的德行；對人謙恭溫和、生活儉樸、讀書勤勞，又能忍讓，也很正直。

他在宋仁宗時做丞相，忠心愛國，兢兢業業地求治國之道，對他的職務謹慎其事、恭敬職守，絲毫不馬虎。在他這一生之中，從宋英宗正式下令他領銜主持寫史，至宋神宗時編撰完成，歷時十九年，終於在洛陽完成《資治通鑑》這部史書的著作。「資」就是資料，「治」就是政治，「通鑑」就是古往今來的一面鏡子。

什麼鏡子呢？就是從事政治、當官者的一面鏡子。這部書只談古來的清官怎樣能把國家治好；也可以說是治國的一種方法、策略及規則。所以這部書是以歷代的治亂興亡為借鏡，除了政治得失之外，不講旁的問題。司馬光畢憚一生，完成這部與《史記》相互輝映的曠古鉅著，故與漢朝司馬遷齊名，稱「前後兩司馬」。

在哲宗時，他再度做宰相。當時經過王安石變法，把天下變得亂七八糟，民不聊生。司馬光把行不通、妙想天開、不適合中國制度的方法除去，刷新宋朝的政治，做得比以前更好。可惜只做了八個月就病死，甚為遺憾。他在生時被封為溫國公，死後諡號文正，也就是說他一生所行所做政治上很可觀，為人也特別正直。

每逢下元節，即十月十五日，司馬光必定親自到廟上去齋僧誦經，超薦其祖先。這表示慎終追遠，不忘他的來源根本及先人的血脈。「慎終」就是在父母臨終時很謹慎，畢恭畢敬，慎重其事。

attention to perform the funeral rites to parents, and let them be followed when long gone with the ceremonies of sacrifice - then the virtue of the people will resume its proper excellence.”

Commentary:

Sima Guang was an able and virtuous prime minister and an incorruptible official in Song Dynasty. Sima was his compound surname. His given name was Guang, and his courtesy name Junshi. He lived during the Northern Song dynasty and was from the county of Xia, Henan Province. Throughout his whole life he was filial and loyal, and possessed many other virtues, such as benign, upright, courteous, temperate, and complaisant. Towards others he was always respectful, moderate, patient and yielding, while remaining upright, living a frugal life, and studying assiduously.

He was the prime minister during the reign of Emperor Renzong. He was loyal to the country, always painstakingly seeking the principles of government that can bring order to the kingdom. He was always respectful, extremely prudent, cautious in fulfilling his duties, and never casual or careless. From the time he was appointed by Emperor Yingzong as the lead historian to direct the government's history-writing until the final completion of Comprehensive Mirror to Aid in Government (Zizhi Tong Jian) in Luoyang, it took nineteen years and was already during Emperor Shenzong's reign. "Zi" means "to provide historic reference." "Zhi" means "political". "Tong Jian" means a mirror which spans from the past to the present.

What kind of mirror is this? It is a mirror for the politics of a country as well as a mirror for being a good government official. The purpose of this book concerns how to learn from the past the upright and wise ways of governing and managing the country. You could say that it is the compilation of policies, strategies, and regulations which could lead to effective government. Including only political affairs, this book takes the ebb and flow of past dynasties for current rulers to study and mirror. Sima Guang devoted all his life to this vast work that can match *Record of History* by Sima Qian of Han dynasty. He became an equal to the grand historian Sima Qian. Two of them, Sima Qian and Sima Guang, were so revered that people called them "the Two Simas."

During emperor Zhezong's reign again he became the prime minister, which was right after Wang Anshi's new laws had wrought havoc and plunged the whole nation into misery. Sima Guang got rid of all those impractical and whimsical laws and rejuvenated the nation. He rejuvenates the politics in Song Dynasty, which is better than previous time. Unfortunately he only lasted eight months in the post before he died of sickness. When he was alive the noble position of Duke of Wenguo (the State of Wen) was conferred upon him. After he died the posthumous title of a Wenzheng was conferred upon him, which acknowledged both his political achievements and his uprightness.

Every fifteenth of the tenth lunar month, he would personally offer meals to the monks and joined them in reciting Sutras to ferry over the souls of his ancestors. This represented a tradition of "be circumspect in funeral services and continue sacrifices to the distant ancestors," so people wouldn't forget their roots and their ancestral lineages. "Be circumspect in funeral services" means being very careful when attending to one's dying parents and their funeral services. One must use extreme care and show the utmost respect.