



烽火戲諸侯—— 周幽王

Fooling the Dukes with False Beacon Alarm—

King You of Zhou

宣化上人講述於1987年10月3日

翟翠冰、邁可派帝 合譯

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BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

姓姬，名宮涅，西周亡國昏君，褒國獻一美女，名褒姒。雖美而無笑容，幽王甚寵之。千方百計，博其一笑，終不如願。有人獻計曰：「天下太平，烽火俱息，如舉烽火，諸侯奔至，褒后必笑。」於是幽王燃起狼煙。諸侯知王有難，遂率大軍，馳奔京城勤王，褒姒一見，千軍萬馬，有排山倒海之勢，乃開顏大笑。

諸侯問王曰：「何事？」王曰：「為博王后一笑耳。」諸侯掃興而歸。後申侯借犬戎之兵，攻幽王，再舉煙火，諸侯無一至者，王被弑於驪山。西周亡，東周立，建都於洛陽。

水鏡回天錄，用的是春秋的筆法。善者是法，我們可以向他學習、效法他；惡者是戒，我們就應該戒除他那種惡習。善惡都是我們的榜樣，好的有好的榜樣，不好的有不好的榜樣。

King You of Zhou, whose family name is Ji, was a fatuous and self-indulgent ruler who lost the whole kingdom. The state of Bao offered a beauty named Baosi to King You. Although she was beautiful, she never smiled; the king pampered her excessively, trying very hard to make her smile, but to no avail. Someone presented him with an idea, "The kingdom is now at peace, and thus for a long time no warning beacons have been lit. If your majesty orders a lighting of the beacons, then all the dukes will come rushing to protect you, and the Queen will definitely break into a smile." Heeding this idea, King You ordered a lighting of the beacons; all the dukes quickly led their armies to the capital to defend the king against the threat. Upon seeing that hundreds of thousands of soldiers and horses arrived like a huge tidal wave, Baosi burst into gleeful laughter.

The dukes asked the king, "What is the emergency?" The king replied, "Nothing, I am only trying to win a smile from the Queen." The dukes returned home upset and frustrated. Later, Duke Shen amassed an army from Quanrong (tribes from Zhou's border regions) to attack King You. Again the beacons were lit; however, this time, none of the dukes came to his aid and the emperor was killed at Mount Li. With the death of King You, the Western Zhou Dynasty perished, and the Eastern Zhou Dynasty was founded with the city of Luoyang as its capital.

Commentary:

The writing style of the *Reflection in the Water-Mirror Series* resembles that of the *Spring and Autumn Annals*. The good historical figures can teach us how to

因為這個，所以我們把古今中外，最善的和最惡的，都提出來和大家講一講。

今天講的是周幽王，姓姬，名宮涅，是西周的亡國昏君，他把江山失去了。他這個昏君怎麼叫幽王呢？幽，就是沒有什麼光明，沒有什麼智慧，是一個黑暗愚癡的王；他沒有正知正見，而有邪知邪見。

那時褒國獻一個美女，名叫褒姒，相貌生得非常美麗，可是心裏很毒，因為她是毒龍血所生的；她的毒就是要將大周的江山弄丟的。

周幽王特別寵幸她，她要什麼就給什麼，言無不聽、行無不就——她所說的話幽王都聽信，她所有的行為，幽王都遷就她。

可是這個女人脾氣很怪，一天到晚非常嚴肅，面上沒有歡笑的樣子。周幽王想要討她的歡喜，就千方百計想要讓他這個王后歡笑，可是想盡方法，她也不笑。所以有人就獻計說：「現在時局很太平，很久沒有舉烽火了；如果你把烽煙點起來，諸侯一來，褒后就會很高興的。」

烽火是古時報信的訊號。譬如有什麼情報，各地區離得很遠，若騎馬去，也要很慢才能把信送到。若點起狼煙，據說烽煙是用狼糞造的，狼糞一燒起來，它的煙很壯觀，可以升得很高，幾十里地以外也能看得見；所以古人就用它來做一個警示危險的訊號，若有什麼危險的事情，就點起狼煙通知諸侯，叫他們帶兵來勤王救主。

可是周幽王也沒有想一想，這種事情是很重要的，不能隨便和諸侯開玩笑；他仍然照著做，於是就把烽煙點起來。他一點起烽煙，諸侯就都看見了，以為帝王發生了什麼意外，就都發兵來勤王——到京城裏來救皇帝。救兵如救火，他們很踴躍地到這兒來勤王；可是到這兒一看，什麼事情也沒有，只有周幽王和褒姒在城牆上，褒姒在那兒哈哈大笑。

諸侯就問他說：「你現在點起狼煙，究竟為的什麼事情啊？」幽王說：「沒有什麼事；太平已久，我們這是做一個軍事的訓練。並且你們來到這兒，我們大家見見面，褒姒娘娘也歡喜了；我只想討娘娘歡喜，所以請你們各位到這兒來，我們聚會一下。」諸侯一聽，這簡直是在戲弄他們，根本不拿他們當一回事，所以都掃興地回去了。

◎待續

behave properly, while the bad ones can teach us behaviors from which we should guard against and refrain. Both the good and the bad ones are our examples, the good ones serve as our models, and the bad ones as warnings. Because of that, we put forth for discussion the various historic figures, the best and the most evil alike.

Today we are going to talk about King You of Zhou, whose family name was Ji and given name was Gongnie. He was the last king of Western Zhou, who was a fatuous and self-indulgent ruler and lost the kingdom. Why did such a fatuous ruler have the name “You”? “You” means not bright and without wisdom. He was a dull king because he did not have right understanding and right views; instead he had wrong understanding and wrong views.

The state of Bao offered a beauty named Baosi to King You of Zhou. Although very beautiful, she was born from the blood of a poisonous dragon; thus she was wicked and cruel, bent on dooming the rule of Zhou Dynasty.

King You of Zhou pampered her: whatever she wanted, he would give her; whatever she said, he would believe; whatever she did, he would accommodate.

However, this woman had a peculiar temperament; she always had a serious expression and never smiled. He wanted to please her so much that he tried hundreds and thousands of things to make her smile, to no avail. Therefore, someone suggested to him the following idea, “The kingdom has been at peace for so long, and the beacon has not been used in quite a long time. If we raise the signal of danger, all the dukes will rush to your defense, then Queen Bao will definitely smile.”

Beacon-fire was used as signal in ancient China. Since the states were far from the capital, urgent messages would take a long time to send using horse riding messengers. However, by lighting a beacon-fire, the thick smoke would ascend high in the sky so that it could be seen from miles away at the next beacon. It was said that wolf dung was burned as a beacon-fire of warning and whenever there was danger, it was lit to inform the dukes to bring the armies to the king's aid.

King You did not consider the seriousness of this matter. He should not have acted irresponsibly by lighting the beacons to play a joke on the dukes. He casually ordered the lighting of the beacon-fire. Seeing the lit beacons, the dukes thought the king was in danger and they led their armies to defend him. “Sending in reinforcements is as urgent as putting out a fire.” They eagerly rushed to the capital. Upon their arrival they were surprised to find that there was no immediate danger at all, but instead they found a laughing king and queen.

The dukes asked the king, “What is the danger? Why did you light the beacon fire?” King You replied, “There is no danger at all. Because it has been peaceful for so long, we lit the fire for training the army; besides I want to make the Queen happy by getting you all together so you can meet each other.” Upon hearing this, the dukes knew they had all been fooled and the king was being disrespectful to them. They were disappointed and returned home in disgust.

◎To be continued