



變法失敗——

王安石

A Failed Reformation— Wang Anshi

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BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

名安石，字介甫，北宋江西臨川人，雖有政治天才，但意氣用事。受范仲淹〈十事疏〉之啓示，倡變法救國。

神宗時入相，發揮抱負，大刀闊斧，推行新政。封為荊國公。某日，問佛慧禪師：「拈華示衆，出於何經？」師曰：「不詳。」石曰：「今於翰苑，偶於大梵王問佛決疑經中見之，此經紀載帝王問佛事，故大藏經不錄。」

為相八年，新法求成過急，用人不當，弊病百出，反而傷民，引退居金陵，閉門思過。一日，遇克文禪師，談經論道，志趣相投，施宅為報寧寺，請禪師為首任住持。

Sutra:

Wang Anshi's style name was Jie fu. He lived during the Northern Song Dynasty and was from Linchuan county of Jiangxi Province. Even though he was a political genius, he was impulsive and tended to let his emotions get the better of him. Inspired by Fan Zhongyan's *Ten-Point Proposal* [to the emperor], he advocated political reforms to shape up the country.

After becoming the prime minister under the reign of Emperor Shenzong, he boldly pursued his ideas and started a series of reforms. He was later conferred the title Duke of the State of Jing. One day, he asked Chan Master Fohui, "Which sutra does the phrase 'the Buddha held up the flower to the assembly' come from?" The Chan Master replied, "It is not sure." Wang Anshi said, "When I was in the Imperial Academy, I happened to find it in the *Sutra of the Great Brahma King's Questions to the Buddha for Resolving Doubt*. This sutra contains questions posed to the Buddha by kings and emperors, and so it was not included in the *Tripitaka*."

During his eight years as prime minister, he pushed for results too quickly on his reforms and did not choose people wisely, which resulted in flawed governance that brought much misery to the people. He finally resigned and retired to Jinling to live in seclusion and reflect on his mistakes. One day, he met Chan Master Kewen. While discussing sutras and the cultivation of the Way, they realized that they shared similar interests. Wang Anshi made an offering of his house, which then became Baoning Monastery, and invited Master Kewen to be the first abbot.

Later on, upon hearing that his reform had been abolished, furious and devastated, he passed away at the age of sixty-six, leaving behind *The Anthology of Linchuan* as his legacy.

後聞新法被廢，憂憤而卒，年六十六，著《臨川集》行世。

王安石是個怪物。為什麼？他是個人，可是不願意做人，那他願意做什麼呢？願意做個四不像。怎麼說呢？（一）他一生不洗臉，這一點，就不像人的樣子。（二）不梳頭。古人都留頭髮，但他不梳頭，把頭髮弄得邋邋遢遢的，生了很多蝨子，當時的人以「囚首垢面」形容他。你說要是個人，會不會這樣子？他把蝨子餵得胖胖的，然後見到誰，就叫蝨子跑到對方身上去吸血，大概他對蝨子說：「你們在我這兒住這麼久了，現在應該搬搬家！」所以蘇老泉（蘇東坡的父親）最討厭他，說這個人一定是個大奸雄，為什麼？因為他不近人情，異想天開。

王安石是有一點學問，可是無才不足以濟奸，就因為他有這種鬼才，有這種怪裏怪氣的才能，才會為患國家，所以我批評他是個怪物——四不像。各位想一想，一個人要是不梳頭、不洗臉，養很多蝨子在身上，這是個什麼人？可想而知，這是個不尋常的人，他做事一定要標奇立異，與人不同。因此王安石這一生害了很多，他自己也氣憤而死。你說他要是一個真正明白的人，怎麼會氣憤而死？

他姓王，名安石，字介甫，是北宋江西臨川縣人。若說他有政治天才，也談不上，他只是想標異現奇，為了發展自己的抱負而不擇手段。他以攀求而來的因緣，在宋神宗時僥倖做了宰相，封為荊國公；做宰相以後，為了發展他的抱負，排除異己——凡是和他不同路的人，一定要排斥。因為這個，所以那些老忠臣都被打擊下去，有的流放到外地去做官，有的不聽他的招呼，就被圈到監獄裏，成為政治犯。他推行變法維新，想不到變法不成，自己也覺得沒有面子，只好引退居於金陵。

Commentary:

Wang Anshi was a strange person. Why? Because he did not act like a normal human being; instead, he was content with a neither fish nor fowl existence. Why do I say this? First, throughout his life, he did not wash his face. Second, he never combed his hair. At the time, men had long hair, and because he did not take care of his hair, it was filthy and became infested with lice. People referred to him as being “as unkempt as a man in prison.” Would a normal person act like this? The lice in his hair were so well fed they became round and fat. Whenever guests came, he would have his lice jump over to their heads and suck their blood too. He probably said to the lice, “You’ve stayed here too long, so you should move somewhere else.” Elder Scholar Su (Su Xun, Su Dongpo’s father) hated him the most. He said, “He [Wang Anshi] is a treacherous person who has a lot of power.” Why did he say so? Because Wang Anshi was unrealistic and ruthless.

Wang Anshi did have some degree of scholarship, as one cannot be devious without some talent. Because he was crafty and insidious, he made the people and the country suffer. This is why I call him a freak. What kind of person would be content with not combing his hair or washing his face, letting himself get so dirty that he was infested with fleas and lice? He liked to do things the unconventional way just to highlight his uniqueness. Consequently, he harmed many people and later died frustrated and angry. If he was really a wise man, he would never have died from anger. When trying to fulfill ambitions, if plans are achievable, then carry them out; if they are not possible, then stop. Confucius also had many aspirations, so he traveled to many different states, but he was not welcome. Why? He was not opportunistic; he did not fawn or try to make friends with the elite. I do not think Wang Anshi became the prime minister in an honest and noble way. If he had, he could not have gotten the job. All of the old officials were quite honest and straightforward and did not guard against people or get jealous of others. Taking advantage of their unawareness, Wang Anshi took them by surprise and became the prime minister.

His surname was Wang, his name Anshi, and his courtesy name Jie fu. He lived during the Northern Song Dynasty in Linchuan County, Jiangxi Province. To call him a political genius would be a great stretch of the imagination; all he wanted to do was to come up with new and odd ideas to distinguish himself. In order to realize his aspirations, he did whatever was necessary. Because of his voracious scheming, he was able to become the prime minister during the reign of Emperor Shenzong, and was appointed the Duke of Jing. Anyone who did not agree with him was sidelined or removed; he struck down many old loyal ministers, banishing them to remote regions far away from the capital; those who did not listen to him were locked up as political prisoners. He pursued his dream of political reform, but little did he know that it would fail, forcing him to retire in disgrace to Jinling.

待續

To be continued