



變法失敗—— 王安石 (續)

A Failed Reformation— Wang Anshi (continued)

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葛漢鐸譯

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BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

評曰：

雖有智慧，而無丕基
家存良工，惜缺利器
變法維新，青苗不接
大勢已去，人皆吁嗟

「雖有智慧，而無丕基」：王安石有一點小智小慧，但這不是政治天才，這簡直是獨裁的「裁」。因為旁人說他有智慧，我也就順著說他有智慧。可是他沒打好基礎，他的基礎不是石頭的。雖然名為安石，意思是基礎像石頭那樣堅固，可是名實不符。

「家存良工，惜缺利器」：所謂「工欲善其事，必先利其器」，他家裏用的工人當中有良工，可是他沒有利器給他們使用。這比喻他想是想得很好，可是沒有這種才能，所以就失敗了。

「變法維新，青苗不接」：他想變法維新，推行「青苗法」，可是人算不如天算，遇到天災人禍、旱

The verse says:

**Wisdom he had; A foundation not.
Talented workers he had; but effective tools he had not.
Although he implemented political reform,
The Qingmiao¹ [lit. “Green Sprouts”] Policy failed in the end.
Seeing that all was lost, Everyone sighs.**

Commentary:

Wisdom he had; A foundation not. Wang Anshi did have a little wisdom, but instead of being a political genius, he was merely a dictator. I say he has wisdom only to comply with some people's comments. However, his foundation was not solid like a rock. Although his name was “stable rock,” he never lived up to that name.

Talented workers he had; but effective tools he had not. It is said: “A person who wishes to master their craft must first sharpen their tools.” We could say that Wang Anshi had great workers, but he did not give them sharp tools. In other words, he had fine goals and ambitions, but because he did not have the talent or ability to implement them, he failed.

¹The Qingmiao Policy was one of Wang Anshi's policies formulated to aid farmers.

澇不濟的時候，這個方法就行不通了。行不通的時候，應該愛民恤民，可以免的稅應該都免了；國家有的是錢，就是窮，大家一起窮，不應該再逼迫老百姓納稅、完糧、還債等等。當時他要是不逼迫人民，國家也不會有問題，無論新法、舊法——老百姓有飯吃，都是可行的法。可惜他不這麼做，於是「人急造反，狗急跳牆」，那時真是把人民逼上梁山。

就像蔡京當宰相的時候，把宋江逼到梁山去據地稱霸，做土匪頭，就是因為這種情形。蔡京就是王安石沒見面的學生，思想和王安石差不多。所以王安石做宰相時，把天下弄得雞犬不寧，青黃不接。

「大勢已去，人皆吁嗟」：他一看大勢已經去了。「吁嗟」就是嘆息，這時人人都沒飯吃，天災飢饉，瘟疫叢生，人人都在那兒號嘆：「啊呀！我們遇到這個時代，真是可憐啊！真是可憐啊！」雖然沒有外人來侵侮，可是國家內部沒有好人把政治處理好，就弄得老百姓都沒得吃，沒得穿。

又說偈曰：

識時務者為俊傑
獨斷擅權徒自歇
好高騖遠求名利
虛榮誇張失和諧
私淑蔡京誤君國
忠義賢臣放外多
一人魯莽萬人恨
百姓熬煎哭娘爺

「識時務者為俊傑」：一個人若不識時務，就是再聰明也是假的。若知時達務，知道國家、老百姓以及當時的情形是怎麼樣，這樣才不會失敗，所以說識時務者才是俊傑。

☞待續

Although he implemented political reform, the Qingmiao Policy failed in the end. Wang Anshi wanted to politically reform the Song Dynasty and put forth the Qingmiao Policy, but as it is said, “Man proposes, heaven disposes.” Drought, famine, and floods prevented his plans from succeeding. When such policies fail, the government should sympathize with and care for its people, and exempt as many people from paying taxes as possible. The government already has its own resources, and when the people fall into poverty, the country should do its part to help them, and not force the people to pay the grain tax or any other taxes, or pay off their loans. If he had not oppressed the people, the country would not have been forced into such dire straits. Whether policies are old or new, they will work as long as the people have enough food to eat. Unfortunately, a saying goes, “When oppressed, the people will rise in rebellion; when cornered, a dog will jump over a wall.” The situation was so bad that the people were forced to become bandits and robbers [literally, the Chinese here means that the people were driven to Mt. Liang].

A similar example occurred when Cai Jing was the prime minister and forced Song Jiang to move to Mount Liang, where he became the leader of a band of robbers. Metaphorically speaking, Cai Jing could be considered Wang Anshi's student, as their philosophies were quite similar although they had never met. During his two decades as the prime minister, Wang Anshi also caused chaos and wreaked havoc for the entire country.

Seeing that all was lost, everyone sighs. He saw that all was lost. During this period, no one had enough food to eat, and famine and plagues ravaged the land. The people sighed and said, “How sad it is that we have to live in such an era!” There were no invasions from foreign powers, but there weren't any talented people capable of running the government and taking good care of people.

Another verse says:

**A wise man is he who understands the timing and conditions.
By rejecting all opposing parties,
he destroyed his own future singlehandedly.
Highly ambitious and seeking fame,
He was vain and arrogant, and his policies quickly lost support.
For his own enjoyment and benefit,
Cai Jing brings devastation and ruin upon the country,
Banishing many loyal and talented officials
One man's recklessness is hated by thousands
As the people live in misery and cry for help.**

Commentary:

A wise man is he who understands the timing and condition. It does not matter how intelligent you are; if you cannot understand the times and the current situation, all efforts will be in vain. Only if you are aware of the situation of the country and the people will you not fail.

☞To be continued