



兒童讀經教育 (續)

(continued)

Children's Education Based on Classical Texts

王財貴教授講於2015年3月15日萬佛城大殿 || Spoken by Professor Cai Gui Wang in the Buddha Hall at CTTB on March 15, 2015
 呂明賜現場即席英譯 || English Translation by Michael Lu



BODHI FIELD | 菩提田

這些又聽過了，再聽古文、唐詩、宋詞、元曲；如果還有時間，再讓他聽一些蒙學的書，如《三字經》、《千字文》、《百家姓》，就是我們選擇的教材要從最高度的選起，這一點觀念，是跟當今世界所大大不同的地方。

為什麼呢？因為現在整個世界的教育強調理解，而他們不知道一個胎兒就可以接受教育。或許他們知道胎兒可以接受教育，但他們認為胎兒是不能理解。因為胎兒不理解，所以教育就沒有意義，於是不教。

現在我提出這個觀點，本來應該是人人都了解的事，如果現在不教，他將錯過這段大好時機，因為胎兒的吸收能力最好，就像海綿一樣照單全收，而且吸收到生命的深處，影響一個生命，影響一輩子。因此，從最小的時候就要教了。此外，還要注意學習的方法，也就是吸收、儲藏、醞釀。因此，我們用高度的聲音來讓他吸收，成

And if you continue, you should let your children listen to the poems of Tang and Song, and finally you can let your children listen to the classics such as the *Three-Character Classic* and the *Thousand Character Classic*, and the *Book of Family Names*. So we should start from the top and then go down. But in contrast, the world today educates its children quite differently.

Why is that? Because most people in the world today believe that we should teach from bottom up and we should teach what children can understand. Since babies don't understand anything, education is deemed meaningless so we don't teach them anything. But after these babies become children and pass their three years' mark, it is already too late. So we must teach our children before they turn three because at this stage they have the best absorbing power; their minds are as absorbent as sponges. Whatever you put before them gets absorbed. So the method here is to listen, to absorb and to incorporate. If we let our children listen to good things as they are growing up, they can absorb and incorporate those valuable lessons into their lives.

For Chinese people of this present age, Chinese culture is not

為他一生取之不盡、用之不竭的學習以及文化基礎。

現代的中國人不只要繼承中國的文化，同時也要面對世界的文化。面對世界的文化之前，很重要的是面對語言，就是要把語言學好。所以現在中國的孩子，也可以讓他在最早的時候接觸外文，現在最流行的是英文。那英文怎麼學習呢？也是從胎兒開始，就可以讓他聽。不是聽英語，而是聽英文，因為英文涵蓋了英語。而且是聽英文最高明的著作，也就是英文經典之作，比如說莎士比亞以及斯賓塞十四行詩。讓他聽這些經典之作，對於將來英語的學習以及英文所記載的智慧，就有相當的基礎。

如果是培養美國出生的中國孩子，也可以讓他聽古典音樂，然後聽英文的經典，同時聽中文的經典。三種聲音一起播放，從早到晚，從晚到早，二十四小時，這樣才能夠達到最好的教育效果。

前面是講胎教。那麼出生以後呢？繼續聽，聽盡世界名曲，聽盡經典讀誦。但是，一出生以後就要加上視覺的教育，就是讓他看盡世界名畫，世界最好的雕塑、建築、舞蹈、戲曲，以及中國的書法作品，讓他在三歲之內看完十遍、百遍、千遍，奠定他一生鑒賞藝術的高度能力。

一歲多會講話的時候，就盡量讓他動他的口舌，訓練他的聰明。動口舌的時候，可以教他經典，讓他跟著唸。兩歲半到三歲的時候，就可以正式讀經。所謂讀經，就是看著經典讀書，一個兩歲半到三歲的孩子，如果看著經典跟著大人唸書，而且反復地唸，他的語言能力將有快速的進步，而且能從反復的誦讀當中認字。大概三歲到四歲，只要一年、一年半的時間，就可以認完漢字一千五到兩千五的字數。能夠認字，就可以開始閱讀；開始閱讀，孩子就可以自我學習，家長跟老師就幾乎不用再教他了。

三歲還沒有開始教，就已經稍微嫌晚了，但是三歲到六歲，還是很容易教的，所以幼稚園很重要的一種功課就是讀經。如果六歲還來不及，上了小學，也還可以教，小學最主要的功課還是讀經，因為十三歲以下的年齡，他的記憶力好，理解力不好，所以應該加強記憶力的培訓，而不要強求他理解。假如強求他理解，我們就只會教很淺陋、一輩子幾乎都用不到的學問；如果教經典，這些經典教一次就可以用一輩子。而且，所教的經典就是中國所謂的「文言文」，多接觸、多唸文言文，他就能夠提升語文敏感能力，也就是提升語文的程度；語文程度提升了，就可以自己閱讀白話文。所以我們教學是教文言文、教經典，他讀書的時候是讀白話文。

讀經典是為了奠定他一生聰明、學習以及教養

the only culture we want to inherit, we also want to be part of the global culture. But first, we must tackle the hurdle of language by laying a strong language foundation. In order to achieve this, it is best to expose our children to foreign languages as early as possible. Among the foreign languages today, English is of course the most popular one. So we should let our children listen to English, and not just to basic English grammar, English pronunciation, but authentic English, and also English literature such as works by Shakespeare, and other great writers. In this way, we can enable our children to develop themselves in wisdom documented in the English language from a very young age.

Now if we wish to raise American children well in an ABC (American-born Chinese) setting, then we can use the three-pronged approach: listening to classical music, the recitation of Chinese classical texts and the recitation of English literature. We can let our children listen to these types of sounds 24 hours a day. This is the best way to develop them.

What was previously said refers to when the baby is still in the womb. After the child is born, we can let him or her continue listening to those sounds. However, we must include visual education by exposing him to global culture. We must have our children watch and observe the great paintings, the greatest places, the greatest dances and Chinese calligraphy works as well. By seeing these masterpieces for ten times, hundreds of times or even thousands of times before three years old, the child will develop a high ability of evaluating art.

When the child is about one year old and is learning to talk, you can encourage him by teaching him the classical texts and getting him to recite along. When the baby is about two and a half or three years old, then he can embark on the formal learning of the recitation of classical texts. You can allow him to look at the text and recite along with you. In this way, the child would quickly develop his language skills. In the period of one to one and a half year's time, when he is about three or four years old, he would be able to recognize about 1,500 to 2,500 Chinese characters. At this point, he is able to read the classical texts by himself and no longer requires his parents or teachers to teach him.

If you didn't start teaching your child before he turned three, it is already a little late. But it is still workable. If you can start teaching him when he is between three and six years old. That is why reciting the classical texts is an important curriculum in preschools and kindergartens. If your child is six years old, it is still okay. In fact, the core curriculum for primary school students is still reciting classical texts, the reason being that children below 13 years old have excellent memory. However, their understanding is not so good, so what we need to do is to train their memory but not force them to understand. If you want your child to understand everything that



的基礎，而讀白話文是增加他的知識量，讓他學會思考。但是經典需要家長跟老師教，白話文是不需要教的。所以中國這一百年來的教育，在一個孩子語文能力養成的最好時期，就是十三歲之內，只教白話文，於是這個人一輩子很難養成高度的語文能力，也就是不能讀文言文；不能讀文言文，就不能讀中國五千年的書，就無法自我深入中國文化的智慧，這是非常可惜的。

一個人能擁有自己願意學習的能力，又有樂於學習的興趣，還有嚮往於光明、嚮往於聖賢的人格，大概都要在十三歲之內培養完成。而讀經教育，正是可以養成高尚的人格，養成強大的學習能力跟學習興趣最好的教育方式。

剛才說過，語文是一切學習的基礎。所以，先把語文學好，而語文一定要在十三歲內學到非常高的地步，將來就終身受用。不僅語文能力培養好了，將來可以向各種專長、各種學科去發展。基礎是非常重要的，一定要把基礎打好，所謂錯過時機，永不再來。

當然如果錯過了十三歲，初中、十三到十五歲，還是可以加強讀經教育的；初中來不及，高中還是可以讀的；高中來不及，大學還可以讀的；甚至大學畢業，二十歲、三十歲、五十歲都可以讀經的。不過，越長大，他的機會越小，效果越少。雖然說越少，但是比不做還好，所以讀經教育是這麼一種教育，越早開始，效果越好。但是任何時刻都可以重新彌補，只要讀一句，就有效。所以今天聽到這種觀念的人，不管你在什麼年紀，都可以開始自己做讀經教育。如果有學校老師引導，那我們勸學校老師安排課程的時候，不要忽略了讀經的教育。尤其小學之前，最好用一半的時間來讀經。那麼初中、高中功課已經比較複雜，所以只能用課外的時

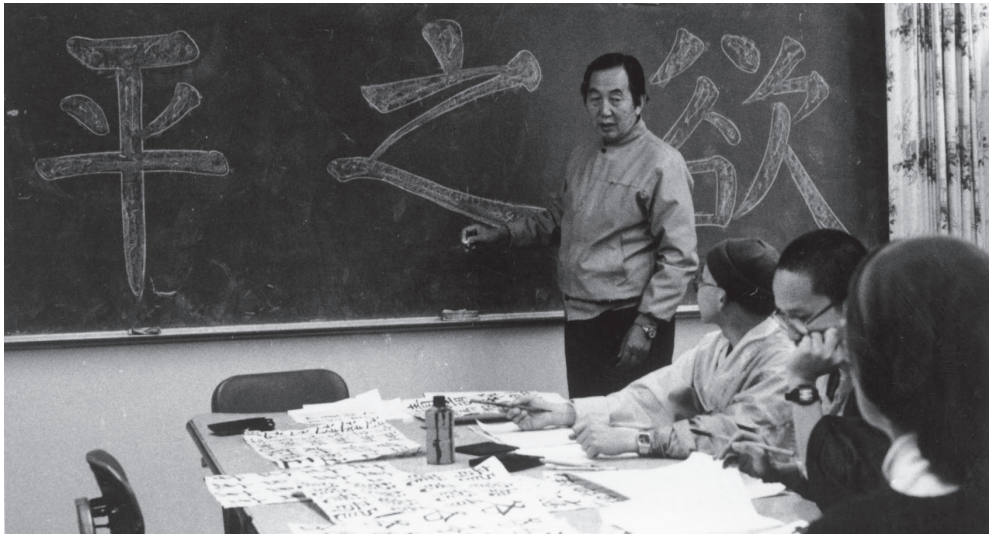
he hears, then you can teach him things he may never use for the rest of his life. Alternatively, you can teach him things that would benefit him for the rest of his life even though he may not be able to apply it to his life for the moment, i.e. the classical texts. In teaching and familiarizing our children with the classical texts, or what we call classical Chinese, we sharpen their skills in the Chinese language. This helps them improve their comprehension of the Chinese language, and enables them to read vernacular Chinese on their own. Therefore, we should first teach them classical Chinese and the classical texts, and when they start attending school, they will learn in vernacular Chinese.

Reciting the classical texts will set your children for life because it is the foundation of learning and education while reading in vernacular Chinese serves to increase their knowledge and reasoning skills. Also, the classical texts need to be taught but there is no such need for vernacular Chinese. For the last hundred years or so in China, children below the age of 13 – the best time to lay a strong language foundation – are taught only vernacular Chinese. Consequently, it is difficult for them to develop strong language skills. For these people, classical Chinese is beyond them and this is unfortunate because they will have no access to the five thousand years of wisdom that Chinese civilization has given to them.

So if you want your child to have the ability to learn by themselves or to have interest in learning or to have the wish to emulate the sages, then you need to allow them to develop these skills when they are 13 years old or younger, and bear in mind that reciting classical texts is the best method to nurture a superior character, develop strong learning abilities, as well as a deep interest for learning.



As I said earlier, language is the foundation of all learning. So we must allow our children to develop their language skills from an early age. If they can acquire strong language skills before 13 years old, these skills would benefit them for life. Once you miss this opportunity, it will never come back.



If you missed the 13-year-old mark, then you can continue in middle school, or even in high school and in college. Even if you are 20 years old, 30 years old or 50 years old, you can still recite classical texts. But of course the results would be proportionately less because this mode of learning reaps better results if one starts earlier. However, it is still better than doing nothing, as any time is a good time to make up for our deficiencies and reciting even just one sentence of classical text will yield a result. If you are listening to

間盡量多讀，一天能夠讀半個小時，就可以很有效果。

讀經教育是非常自然的，所以是非常簡單的。首先，它的教材是經典。經典已經流傳在世界上，大家也都大概知道什麼是經典。中國人先讀中國的經典，然後讀外國的經典；外國人呢，先讀自己本民族的經典，如果有時間再讀中國的經典。拿到經典之後，就只是去讀。最早開始就是去讀，至於現在已經長大的人呢，就從聽到的那一天開始讀。

怎麼讀呢？就反復地讀，最好能把一段的文章讀一百遍。我現在提倡一個非常簡單的讀經方法，叫做「三百讀經法」。第一個「一百」，一天一百個字的進度；第二個「一百」，把這一百個字讀一百遍；第三個「一百」，給任何人都一百分。如果是老師給學生，每一個學生都一百分；如果自己給自己，就打個分數一百分。

一百個字，一般資質的孩子，大概唸個五十遍就能夠背誦，可是讓他唸到一百遍；聰明的孩子呢，唸二十遍、十遍就會背，也讓他唸到一百遍。如果唸到一百遍還不會背的呢？讓他唸一百遍也就可以了。會背的人一百分，那不會背的人，因為他已經在進步了，所以也一百分。這就叫做「三百讀經法」。

this, then you should understand that no matter how old you are today. You can start reciting classical texts by yourself. If you are a student and you have teachers, you can encourage your teachers to incorporate these studies into the curriculum, especially for students in elementary schools, at least half of their time at school should be spent on reciting classical texts. By the time they attend middle or high schools, more time is required for their studies, so they may have to use their own time. In any case, even if you can spend only half an hour a day reciting classical texts, this is enough to produce good results.

The education of reciting classical texts is very natural. That is why it is also very easy. The content of the classics has been passed down for generations and so most people know the general meaning. That is why the Chinese should first recite the Chinese classical texts before focusing on western classics. Similarly, people of other civilizations should first read their own classics, and then read Chinese classics if they have time. Those already grown up can start reciting when they learn of this method.

I recommend a simple method called “the method of three 100s.” The first 100 refers to selecting a passage of 100 words or characters; the second 100 refers to reading that passage 100 times. And the third 100 refers to giving yourself 100 points for your effort. If a teacher tells his students to recite, then he should give all his students 100 points. If you are doing it by yourself, then you should give yourself 100 points.

Most children can memorize a hundred word passage after reading it 50 times, while children who are more intelligent may memorize it after 10 or 20 times, but you must let everybody read it 100 times. For those who cannot memorize the passage after reading 100 times, you just let them stop there and not recite any further. And regardless of whether one has the text memorized or not, you give them 100 points because they have put in their effort and have made progress.

☞待續

☞To be continued