



平治洪水——

夏禹王

Controlling the Floods — King Yu of the Xia Dynasty

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BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

姓姁，名文命，鯀之子。知父治水失職之因，故以疏導法將江淮河濟四水，疏通入海。為公忘私，治水十三年，三經家門而不入。以懷著人溺己溺之大悲心，為民服務，深受百姓愛戴。舜讓位時，傳授十六字心法：「人心惟危，道心惟微，惟精惟一，允執厥中。」

盡力而治國，將天下分為九州，即冀、兗、青、徐、揚、荊、豫、梁、雍也。在位九年，崩於會稽，讓位於益。四方諸侯棄之，擁其子啓，賢而立之。夏代之文化，以氣象為卓越，後稱夏曆，而今依之。

King Yu's family name was Si, and his given name was Wenming. He was the son of Gun who was appointed as the chief civil engineer to put an end to the flood but did not succeed. Learning from his father's mistakes, he adopted a method that would channel the waters of the Yangtze River, the Huai River, the Yellow River, and the Ji River into the sea. He selflessly devoted himself to public service for thirteen years. He passed his home three times but did not enter. He was very compassionate towards others; in his mind if someone were to drown because of the flood, he would feel as though he himself had drowned. He served the people with this kind of spirit and thus became a much beloved leader. King Shun later passed the throne on to him, giving him 16 essential characters of advice as a ruler (later was known as the Counsels of the Great Yu):

The human mind is precarious,

The mind of the Way is subtle.

Focus single-mindedly,

And hold fast to the Middle Way.

King Yu governed China faithfully and diligently. He divided the country into Nine Governing Offices: the Districts of Ji, Yan, Qing, Xu, Yang, Jing, Yu, Liang and Yong. He stayed in power for nine years and died in Kuaiji, after appointing Yi, who was not a member of his family, to the throne. Yi however, was not trusted by the dukes and nobles who favored Qi, the son of King Yu, as the worthy one. Therefore, Qi was enacted as their

夏禹王，這位王在中國是賢而有德的。雖然他有道有德、有智慧，可是還願意集思廣益，接納所有人的智慧，這是他的特長。所以孟子才說：「子路聞過則喜，禹聞善言則拜。」子路的優點，就是誰說他有什麼過錯，他就歡喜，不會因為別人說他的不對就不高興；大禹王一生之中，不論聽見誰說的話有道理、有真理存在，是至理名言，他就向這個人拜倒而稱謝，這是他最開明的一點。

大禹王的事蹟，記載於《書經·大禹謨》，他的功業在中國是不可泯滅的。他的思想很純潔，沒有什麼欲念，沒有自私心，沒有自利心，也沒有貪心、爭心、有所求的心；只知道為百姓謀幸福，為國家盡忠心。

他姓姒名文命，傳說是鯀的兒子。帝堯的後期，天下洪水氾濫。不單單是中國，當時世界所有的國家都有洪水氾濫，這是世界的成住壞空。世界有水火風三災，三災起的時候，死人是無數的。水災的時候，不會水性的人和其他眾生，被洪水淹死的不知有多少，所以天主教、耶穌教說諾亞造方舟來拯救世人。

那時中國的堯帝用鯀來治水，後又舉用舜來幫他分治，等到夏禹王的時候還是繼續治水。天下洪水為災，時間大概很久，那時中國把水治好了，其他各國大概也都有有智慧的人去治理。

禹王治水成功，因為他懂得水性。水性是柔和的，所以不可以和它硬碰，因為它雖然柔和，可是至柔能克至剛。他父親鯀治水，就用堵塞的方法，硬堵硬截。但是水，你越堵它，它的力量就越大；沒有地方跑了，就更生出毛病來。鯀治水時，也不好好治，這是因為他太剛強，不知道水的性。

☞待續

ruler instead. The Xia Dynasty, founded by King Yu, was culturally rich, with major advances in meteorology. Its calendar, referred to as the Xia Calendar (the Chinese calendar), is still in use in China nowadays.

Commentary:

King Yu, the founding emperor of Xia Dynasty, was both worthy and virtuous. Although he was worthy, virtuous, and wise, he was very attentive to advice and suggestions from others and readily adopted their words of wisdom. This was his strength. Mencius said, "When anyone told Zilu, Confucius's disciple, that he had a fault, he rejoiced. When Yu heard words of goodness, he bowed to the speaker." Zilu rejoiced when people pointed out his faults or mistakes; he would not feel upset upon hearing others talk about his shortcomings. During King Yu's entire life, when hearing the truth or words of goodness, King Yu would be thankful and bow in respect, no matter who that person was. This was indicative of his wisdom and broad-mindedness.

King Yu's deeds were recorded in the Book of History written about him. His feats of public service would never fade away in China. He was complete with pure thoughts, free of desire for self-interest: without the least bit of greed, contention, seeking, selfishness, or thought of self-benefit. All he was concerned was about the well-being of the multitudes.

King Yu of the Xia Dynasty was from the Si family and was named Wenming; he was said to be the son of Gun. During the last few years of Emperor Yao's reign, severe floods plagued the world - not only China, but also everywhere else in the world. This is the four phases that the world undergoes, namely coming into being, abiding, decaying, and perishing. The world has the three natural calamities: that of water, fire and wind, which take countless human lives. During the occurrence of a water calamity, countless lives would be lost, including both human and other beings that are not good at swimming. The Bible mentions the story of Noah's Ark, in which the species of the world are preserved.

While in China, seeing the woes and suffering of his people, Emperor Yao ordered his minister Gun to lead the masses to control the floods. Yao also later ordered Shun to help Gun in this undertaking. Even after King Yu was given the throne they were still trying to control the floods. This flooding era probably lasted very long in every corner of the world. China eventually succeeded in controlling the floods, and other countries probably had similar people of wisdom to accomplish this task as well.

King Yu succeeded in controlling the floods because he was aware of the soft and gentle nature of water - floods could not be dealt with using tough measures. What is utmost gentle and yielding can overcome what is toughest or hardest. His father, Gun, used the methods of damming the water. But the more water is forcefully dammed, the more powerful it becomes. Without an outlet problems would occur. Gun had an unyielding and stubborn personality and was not aware of the nature of water being soft and gentle.

☞To be continued