



平治洪水——

夏禹王 (續)

Controlling the Floods — King Yu of the Xia Dynasty (continued)

宣化上人講述於1987年10月1日

趙乘風 英譯

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BIOGRAPHIES | 人物誌

禹王專心治理國家，發政施仁，為老百姓謀幸福。他把全中國分成九州，這九州就是冀、兗、青、徐、揚、荊、豫、梁、雍。州就等於現在的省一樣，只是當時他是那樣畫分。他在位只有九年，就崩於會稽山。當時他讓位給益，可是四方諸侯不太信任益，所以就不擁護他。禹的兒子啟，賢而有德，所以大家都擁護他。

夏代的文化特別盛，以天文地理、觀察氣象為特別。那時候用十天干、十二地支配合起來，把一年分成十二個月，十二個月又分成四季，就是春、夏、秋、冬。所以陰曆這種曆法是夏朝立的，到現在中國還是遵照這種曆法。

贊曰：

疏導壅塞，水患不再
衆流歸海，百姓稱快
天下太平，世界永在
禹王功德，萬劫不壞

King Yu of the Xia Dynasty governed his country mercifully, and with a benevolent government, he devoted himself to the well-being of his subjects. He divided China into nine administrative regions similar to present-day provinces: Ji, Yan, Qing, Xu, Yang, Jing, Yu, Liang, and Yong. He stayed on the throne for nine years and passed away at Mt. Kuaiji after having abdicated his throne to Yi. However, Yi was not trusted and was ousted from power by the dukes and nobles. In his place, Qi, King Yu's worthy and virtuous son, was favored and established as the new ruler.

The Xia Dynasty left an excellent legacy rich in astronomy, geography and meteorology. The Xia Calendar was based on the combination of the *Heavenly Stems* and the *Twelve Earthly Branches*. It divided one year into twelve months, and then the twelve months into four seasons. These formed the very basis of the Chinese lunar calendar which is still in use today.

A Praise Says:

Blockages removed, water re-channeled,

Flooding ceases to be.

With streams and rivers flowing to the seas,

The multitudes applaud and rejoice.

All under Heaven becomes tranquil,

Peace reigns over the Earth forever.

The merit of King Yu, will never fade away.

「疏導壅塞，水患不再」：禹王治水，是用疏導壅塞的方法，水患才沒有了。到現在我們人人都沒有被洪水淹死，這是禹王的功勞。中國的水患和世界的水患沒有了，這可以說是成就世界。

「眾流歸海，百姓稱快」：所有的河流都歸到海裏去了，百姓都說這是很快樂的。

「天下太平，世界永在」：如果不把水患治好，這世界早就到末日，沒有世界了。

「禹王功德，萬劫不壞」：禹王的功德，萬劫也不會壞。

又說偈曰：

繼志立功治洪水，順天應人任疲勞
禹疏九河入滄海，曆傳萬代法地天
舜傳心法十六字，湯承聖脈百千年
為公忘私門不進，夏帝勲業山嶽高

「繼志立功治洪水」：他繼續父親鯀的志願。鯀沒有完成這個事業就死了，可以說是抱恨終天，幸虧有這麼個兒子來幫他治水。

「順天應人任疲勞」：他任勞任怨的，不像一般人的思想，認為父親是因為治水死了，自己就不再做這個事情。他不是這樣，還是繼續父親沒有完成的志願。

「禹疏九河入滄海」：禹王疏通江河湖海都流入大海。

「曆傳萬代法地天」：夏代的曆法是法地法天的，按照天干地支作的。十天干：甲乙丙丁戊己庚辛壬癸；十二地支：子丑寅卯辰巳午未申酉戌亥。

「舜傳心法十六字」：舜帝傳給他十六字心法。

「湯承聖脈百千年」：禹將十六字心法傳湯，代代相傳百千年，都還是繼續這個聖脈。

Commentary:

Blockages removed, water re-channeled, flooding ceases to be. King Yu dredged the rivers, re-channeled the water, and controlled the floods. With the flooding in check, people were no longer drowned—this was all accredited to King Yu. His accomplishments of controlling the floods of China and the world can be considered as a great achievement to the world.

With streams and rivers flowing to the seas, the multitudes applaud and rejoice. All water returns to the sea. Everyone felt very happy about this.

All under Heaven becomes tranquil, peace reigns over the Earth forever. If the floods had not been tamed, this world would have been long gone.

The merit of King Yu, will never fade away. King Yu's feat — his meritorious virtue — will never diminish even after tens of thousands of cons.

Another verse says:

**Succeeding in his father's ambition
to establish the merit of controlling the floods,
He works tirelessly in accord with Heaven
and the situation of his time.
King Yu channels the flooding rivers into seas.
Modeling Heaven and Earth,
the Xia Calendar becomes a legacy for all generations.
Shun bestows onto Yu, the essential advice of 16 characters;
He passes on the sages' pulse to Tang for coming centuries.
Passing but not entering his home,
forgetting himself in service,
His accomplishment is loftier than the mountains,
the founding emperor of Xia!**

Commentary:

Succeeding in his father's ambition to establish the merit of controlling the floods. Yu succeeded in his father's unfulfilled ambition and task. Gun passed away before he was able to accomplish the task - we can say he died with regret. Fortunately he got such a son to take over his work.

He works tirelessly to accord with Heaven and the situation of his time. He took responsibility in his undertaking, without complaining or having the mindset of ordinary people who would say, "since my father was put to death due to failure in flood control, I would not continue with this task." He was not like that.

King Yu channels the flooding rivers into seas. The King Yu removed blockages and dredged the nine rivers to channel flood water into the sea.

Modeling Heaven and Earth, the Xia Calendar becomes a legacy for all generations. The Chinese calendar was created in Xia Dynasty, and was based on the *Ten Heavenly Stems* and *Twelve Earthly Branches*. The Ten Heavenly Stems are: Jia, Yi, Bing, Ding, Wu, Ji, Geng, Xin, Ren, Gui. The Twelve Earthly Branches are: Zi, Chou, Yin, Mao, Chen, Si, Wu, Wei, Shen, You, Xu, Hai.

Shun bestows onto Yu, the essential advice of 16 characters. Shun passed the sixteen-character verse to Yu that summarized the basic principles of governing a country.

「為公忘私門不進」：他到自己家門口也不進去。

「夏帝勲業山嶽高」：他的功勞比山嶽都高。

你們各位也學學禹王治水。我們不要到外邊去治水，治治我們自己裏邊的煩惱無明，把我們愚癡的水都淘汰乾淨，疏通好了它，那也是學禹王治水呢！✿

He passes on the sages' pulse to Tang for coming centuries. Yu then passed down these 16 characters to King Tang of the Shang Dynasty. The transmission thus continued generation after generation — for hundreds of thousands of years.

Passing but not entering his home, forgetting himself in service. Putting service above self, Yu did not even visit his family the three times when he passed by his home.

His accomplishment is loftier than the mountains, the founding emperor of Xia. His contribution and merit were loftier than high mountains.

Everyone of you should follow the example of King Yu. Don't just go out to control the external floods; rather, tame and subdue the inner ignorance and afflictions, clear and re-channel the waters of delusion. This is truly learning from King Yu's controlling of the floods. ✿