

論語淺釋 (續)

The Analects of Confucius

(continued)



宣化上人講

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【里仁第四】

「一則以懼」：有的時候又很懼怕。一想：「唉！已經這麼大年紀了，這不知道哪一個時候就會發生問題？」不是立刻死了——你若叫他立刻死，他又不死呢？那父母、子女又該打架了，說：「你這麼老了，還不立刻死？」不是立刻，就或者有的時候就生病，或有什麼事故。不要說年老，就年輕的人有什麼意外，也都不一定就會活著。

大約果明這個想法是：老年人駕車，一下子撞車了，這立刻就死了。你這麼樣說，那就可以通過，Pass的，可以通融一點。說：「他年老眼睛昏花，耳朵也不太好了，如果他開一個德國車到外邊，又開得快，很容易就發生意外，這就立刻死了！」你應該加這麼一個注解。對不對啊？你就說「立刻死了」；你這個中文也

Chapter 4: Living in a Benevolent Neighborhood

And a source of dread on the other. Sometimes, it can also be quite a frightening thought: “Alas! As they are already so advanced in years, who knows when there will be a problem?” This does not mean they are going to die straightaway. What if you expect them to die immediately and they don’t? On such occasions, parents and children will come to blows again, with the latter saying: “Since you are already so old, why don’t you just drop dead?” The fear is not about them dying this very instant but whether they will fall ill or meet with any mishap. Then again, even young people may not necessarily survive if they get into an accident.

Perhaps, Guo Ming may be thinking of a scenario where an elderly driver is killed instantly in a traffic accident. This idea is passable and we can make an exception in this case. What he means is this: “If an elderly person who has blurred vision and is hard of hearing were to take a Volkswagen out for a spin and ended up speeding, it would be very easy for him to get into an accident and die instantly!” You should include this explanatory note. All you said was “die instantly.” Since you have just started learning Chinese, it did not quite make sense, but for your level, however, it’s alright. The fact that you are able to understand this passage, that is not bad at all!

是剛剛地學，也講不通。這都還可以的，你能懂得這個，也不錯的！

不過你不要想：「喔！我的媽媽立刻就死了，我好修行。」不要像我說的那個人，因為他爸爸媽媽不准他出家，把他媽媽爸爸騙到一艘船上，把他爸爸媽媽一下子就推到海裏去，他即刻就出家修行，修行就證果了。不要像那個！

(二十二) 子曰：「古者言之不出，恥躬之不逮也。」

Good morning！因為我這麼多天沒給你們講話，我很高興；所以對你們說Good morning，這是特別真又真的，不是假的，不是敷衍你們的。那麼你們都是將來世界有用的人，世界的主人就是青年人，你們將來要負責任，把這個世界整頓好了它。要這個世界整頓好，先要把自己這個身、口、意整頓好了它：你身不犯法，要奉行國家的法律；口也要盡量宣傳這國家的德政，國家對你們有什麼好處，對人民有什麼好處，要告訴大家；意念裏頭，要存心改變世界人類的災難。人類的災難，就因為人都是自私，才造成全世界人類的災難；我們要是能以存心不自私了，那就是改變世界災難的一個開始。所以這一點，你們各位都應該特別注意的！

那麼今天講這《論語》，對你們這些個幼苗是很重要的，對人，做人的道理也很重要。所以今天做一個例外，在沒有電，點著火燭這個課室裏邊，天還將要下雨。在這麼個情形之下，我們講這個世界真正光明的道理。所以頭前我對你們說，你們每一個人，有一份熱就要發一份光，幫助這個世界。我們這一份光是照亮世界的，不是照亮個人的。我們個人是無足輕重的，可是我們自己個人也是非常舉足輕重的。我們若是往好了做，就會消世界的災難於無形；我們若盡往不好了做，就增加世界的災難，所以我們每一個人也是很重要的。

今天的《論語》是講，「子曰」：孔子說，「古者」：這古來的人。古來的人怎麼樣呢？「言之不出，恥躬之不逮也」：言，就是說話；不出，就是他沒有說出口之前。

But don't think: "Oh, if my mother dies right now, it will make it easier for me to cultivate." Don't be like the person I mentioned before. Since his parents did not permit him to leave the home life, he tricked them into getting on a boat and pushed them overboard. Then, he left the home-life to cultivate and eventually attained fruition, but don't be like him!

(22) The Master said, "The ancients were very cautious in their speech, for they considered it shameful if their actions fell short of their words."

Good morning! I have not been lecturing to you for so many days, so I'm glad to be back. That's why I wished all of you, "Good morning." This is a truly genuine greeting; I'm not faking it and I'm not being perfunctory. Since all of you young people are the future assets and masters of the world, you have to shoulder the responsibility of improving the global situation. To do that, you will first have to rectify your own body, mouth and mind. With your body, abide by the country's laws and regulations and refrain from doing anything illegal. With your mouth, try your best to extol the virtuous governance of this country. Let everybody know about the benefits your country has given you and other citizens. In your thoughts, cherish the intention to relieve mankind of calamities. The disasters afflicting humanity throughout the world are due to people's selfishness. If we are able to rid our minds of selfish thoughts and intentions, it is a good start in reducing global disasters. Therefore, all of you should pay particular attention to this point!

The passage of the *Analects* that we are discussing today is very important for all of you young people because it teaches the principle of proper human conduct. Today, we will be making an exception. With no electricity, we have lit candles in the classroom and it looks like it's going to rain soon, so we will talk about the world's genuinely bright principles. Previously, I said that each and every one of you who has a share of warmth must bring forth a share of light to help the world. Our share of light is meant to illuminate the world, not to only shine on the individual. We, as individuals, are insignificant and yet we play an extremely decisive role. If we conduct ourselves in the proper way, we can wipe out the disasters in the world; if we conduct ourselves in an improper way, we will only increase the world's calamities. Therefore, every one of us is equally important.

Today's portion of the *Analects* reads: **The Master said.** Confucius said this. **The ancients** refer to people of ancient times. How did they behave? They **were very cautious in their speech, for they considered it shameful if their actions fell short of their words.**

☞待續

☞To be continued