

論語淺釋 (續)

The Analects of Confucius (continued)

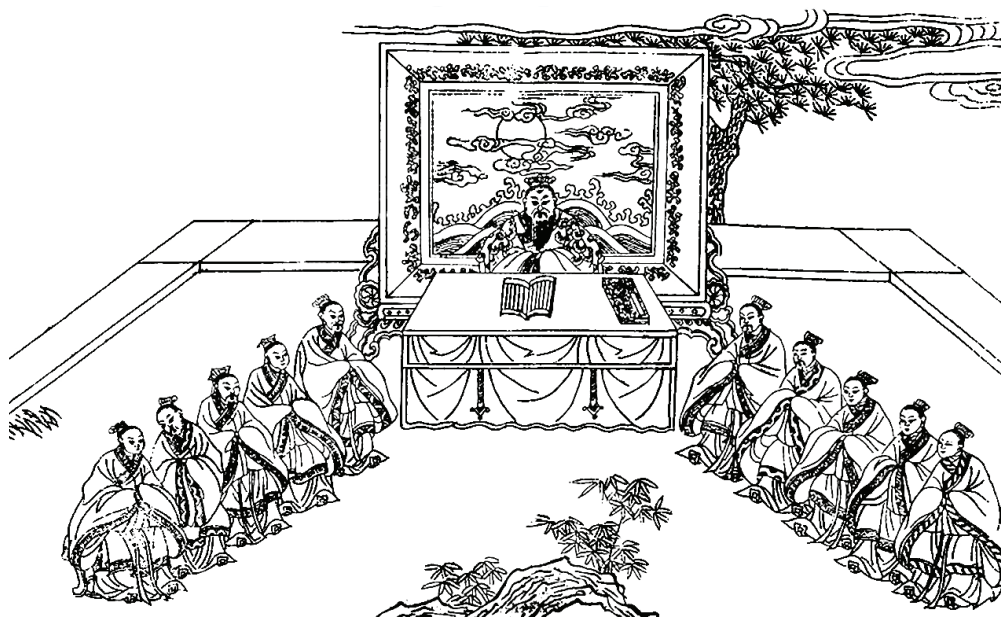
宣化上人講

楊維光、劉年聰 英譯

Lectures by the Venerable Master Hua

English translation by Yong Wei Kwong

and Liew Yen Chong



【公治長第五】

Chapter 5: Gongye Chang

(九) 子謂子貢曰：「女與回也孰愈？」對曰：「賜也何敢望回！回也聞一以知十，賜也聞一以知二。」子曰：「弗如也，吾與女弗如也！」

(9) Speaking to Zigong, the Master asked, “Comparing yourself with Hui, who do you think is better?” He replied, “How would I, Ci, dare to compare myself with Hui? When Hui listens to one principle, he can deduce ten other principles; but when I listen to one principle, I can only infer two others.” The Master said, “Not his equal indeed. I agree you cannot match up to him!”

【上人講解】

今天大家講得都不錯，不過孔子和子貢的問答需要補充說明一下。

「子謂子貢曰」：孔子大約也想宣示一下顏回的聰明，平時他常常讚顏回，恐怕端木賜他不佩服，所以孔子開門見山、直截了當地就問子貢說，「女與回也孰愈」：你和顏回，你們兩個人比較上來，哪一個你覺得是最好的？大約子貢平時以為自己會做生意，做生意的人都是有一點頭腦的，所以超過顏回。那麼這樣子，孔子知道他有這個妄想，就問他：你和顏回兩個人比較，怎麼樣？

【Venerable Master's Commentary】

Today, everyone has explained the text quite well but the dialogue between Confucius and Zigong requires further clarification.

Speaking to Zigong, the Master asked. Confucius probably wanted Yan Hui's intelligence to be made known publicly. He often praised Yan Hui at ordinary times but was concerned about Duanmu Ci's apparent lack of admiration for the former. Therefore, he took a straightforward approach and asked Zigong bluntly: “Comparing yourself with Hui, who do you think is better?” How do you compare with Yan Hui? Between the two of you, who do you think is the best? As business people are known to be quite brainy, Zigong probably thought that he surpassed Yan Hui by virtue of his business acumen. Now, Confucius was aware of this false thought of his and so he asked him,

「對曰」：子貢聽這一問，豁然大悟了，知道自己不行了。所以就說，「賜也何敢望回」：哎呀！老師，我端木賜啊，怎麼可以跟顏回比？我沒有資格可以和顏回比較，我們相差得太遠了！「回也聞一以知十，賜也聞一以知二」：我們是師兄弟，顏回嘛，他聽見一個道理，就能明白十個道理；觸類旁通，他這種智慧非常之高的。我也能觸類旁通，也能融會貫通，可是我只能融會到兩種的理論，再多了就不行了。所以說，我端木賜啊，不敢和顏回大哥來比較。

「子曰」：這樣子，孔子也就說，「弗如也」：是，你是不如他！就給證明一下。又加重語氣說，「吾與女弗如也」：我給你證明：你是不如他！這不是說「我和你都不如他」。孔子是個老師，道德也超過顏回，顏回是個年輕的人，才三十來歲的；孔子那時候就六七十歲了，怎麼可以說「我不如他」呢？孔子雖然說是很客氣的，謙德不遑，但是也不會這樣講話的。

這個「與」字，方才有人說是「和」的意思；那是人不懂得講的，不認字的人，不明白道理，一看那個「與」字，就說是「我和你一起都不如他了」。這個是Not logical（沒有邏輯），不合理的！這個「與」讀「許」，就是我證明你；我給你證明：你是不如他！這加重語氣了，就是再說清楚一點；怕子貢還是冒充，在孔子面前來說「不如了」，到外邊去還是那麼樣子令人有個錯覺。好像我們這兒某某人，總就令人有錯覺，就以為他是不得了啦！子貢是個好炫示、好賣廣告的一個人；做生意的人都是會願意賣廣告，所以到處去賣廣告。孔子一看，這個不是好辦法；「多藏必厚亡」，光芒外露不是很好的，所以才這麼說。你們各位要注意這個，「吾與女弗如也」，以後你不要說是：「喔！孔子說：『我和你都不如顏回了！』」那你把顏回弄得受寵若驚，就快點死了算了，恐怕老師都妒忌他！

☞待續

“When you compare yourself with Yan Hui, how do you fare against him?”

He replied. As soon as Zigong heard this question, he suddenly experienced a great awakening and realized that he was not that good after all. Therefore, he said, “**How would I, Ci, dare to compare myself with Hui?**” My goodness, Teacher! How could I, Duanmu Ci, possibly compare with Yan Hui? I am not qualified to compare with him. We are worlds apart! **When Hui listens to one principle, he can deduce ten other principles; but when I listen to one principle, I can only infer two others.** Both of us may be fellow disciples but when Yan Hui listens to the Master explain one principle, he immediately understands ten other principles. By grasping one aspect, he understands all other aspects and this shows that he is endowed with phenomenal wisdom. I can also comprehend matters by analogy but I can only grasp two other principles and nothing more than that. Therefore, I, Duanmu Ci, admit that I am in no position to compare with Elder Brother Yan Hui.

The Master said. That being the case, Confucius remarked, “**Not his equal indeed.**” Yes, you cannot compare with him! Let me confirm that. In a more serious tone, he added, “**I agree you cannot match up to him!**” I will bear out your words: You are definitely not as good as him! This line does not mean: “You and I are not his match.” Confucius was a teacher and his moral virtue far surpassed that of Yan Hui who was only a young man in his thirties. As Confucius was already in his sixties or seventies then, how could he possibly say, “I am inferior to him”? Although Confucius was a very courteous person and humble at all times, he would not resort to speaking of himself in this manner.

Just now, someone mentioned that the character “與” (yǔ) is the conjunction “和” (hé), meaning ‘and’. Such comments are made by ignorant people who do not recognize Chinese characters and have failed to make sense of this passage. The moment they see the character “與,” they interpret it as: “You and I are not as good as him.” This is illogical and does not make sense! Here, ‘與’ is pronounced as “許” (xǔ) and means “confirm” or “bear out.” I confirm what you said: Indeed, you cannot hold a candle to him! Repeating the words in an emphatic tone ensures that there is no ambiguity. Confucius was afraid that Zigong might be pretending when he declared himself inferior to Yan Hui and that he would continue to give people elsewhere a false impression. For example, we have someone here who tends to give people a false impression about how great he or she is! Zigong was a person who loved publicity and was fond of advertising himself. Generally, businessmen like to gain publicity by going around selling advertisements. As soon as Confucius saw this, he knew this was not the right thing to do, for there is a saying: “One who hoards excessively will certainly incur huge losses.” Displaying one’s brilliance is not really a good thing, hence Confucius’ remark. All of you should take note of this line: I agree you cannot match up to him! Next time, do not interpret it as “Oh, Confucius said: ‘You and I are not as good as Yan Hui!’” In that case, Yan Hui would be overwhelmed by your flattery, which explains why he went to an early grave. He was worried that even his teacher would be jealous of him!

☞To be continued