

良相佐國——晏嬰（續）

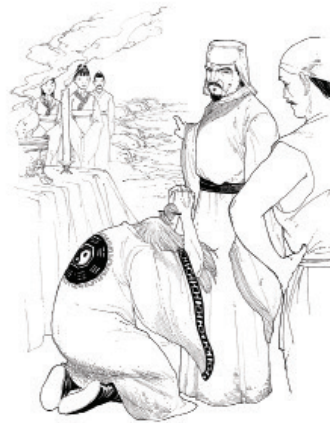
Yan Ying — An Outstanding Statesman Who Helped Rule the Country (continued)

宣化上人講述於1988年5月14日

馬來西亞譯經組 英譯

Lectured by Venerable Master Hsuan Hua on May 14, 1988

English translation by MTT (Malaysian Translation Team)



那麼楚王把他迎接來了，看他雖然小，卻這麼樣會講話，於是就宴會招待他。宴會時，預先做好了圈套，正在飲宴的時候，不知在什麼地方就抓來一個賊人。這時楚王就說：「這人儘在楚國裡偷東西，可是他不是楚國人，是齊國人。」楚王就這麼再來侮辱戲弄晏嬰，等於是帶著一種侮辱性、諷刺性來譏諷齊國人。

所以楚王端起酒杯，笑著問晏嬰：「齊國善盜乎（你們齊國很多賊吧）？」也暗指你這駝子大約也是個賊頭賊腦，儘做賊的吧！

晏嬰聽了也不著急，也不發脾氣，也不生氣，笑著對楚王說：「喔，我聽說橘子生在淮南的時候，叫做橘子，酸酸甜甜的；等生長在淮北呢，就叫做枳，比橘子更甜而不酸。雖然淮南叫橘，淮北叫枳，但是它倆的樹木和枝葉都相同，可是味道不一樣；淮南這個又酸又甜，那麼淮北的，就只甜不酸。這不是它們本身那個味道不同，而是各方水土的關係。」

意思就是說，齊國的人本來都是守禮教、守規矩、守法律的，可是到了楚國，到你這個賊國家，他就不守規矩了，就做盜了，也就和橘子和枳這個性質是一樣的。

That was how he was finally received by the king of Chu. Realizing Yan's eloquence despite of his height, the king decided to host a banquet for him, but prior to the banquet, the king set up another scheme for Yan. In the midst of the banquet, from nowhere, a captured thief was brought to the banquet. The king then commented, "This person steals only in Chu, but he is not a Chu citizen, he is a citizen of Qi." That was how the king of Chu intended to humiliate Yan again. The manner of making fun of him, carries with it sarcasm and humiliation. Indirectly, it was meant to insult the Qi people.

As King Chu held up his goblet to toast, he smiled at Yan and asked, "Qi people are fond of stealing, right?" The king implied that many citizens of Qi were thieves, and that Yan himself because of his pony-like height, was also a person with the head and brains of a thief, and was therefore also a thief.

Yan was calm and not upset, he smiled at King Chu and replied, "Oh! I heard that clementines grown south of the Huai River are called ju (clementine) and they taste sweet and sour, while those grown north of the Huai River are called zhi, and are sweeter without any sourness. Both trees, branches and leaves are the same but they differ in taste. Ju from south of the Huai River tastes sweet and sour but zhi from north of the Huai River are sweet without any sourness. They taste differently, not because they are different species, but because they were grown in different environments."

This insinuates that although Qi people are by nature well-mannered and law-abiding, the moment they landed in Chu - the kingdom of thieves - they became bad-mannered thieves. This was reflected in the nature of the ju and zhi.

King Chu had this coming. With Yan's retort, he felt the situation was against him and did not have sufficient reason to continue with the repartee. These are the two trivial issues encountered by Yan in his diplomatic missions

被晏嬰這樣一回答，楚王也自討沒趣，覺得再辯論下去，理由也不充足了，沒有什麼大意思了。這是晏嬰面對外交，雖然是小小的兩個問題，就足見他這種智慧、辯才很高超的，超人一等。

那麼給晏嬰趕車，趕著駟馬高車的這位車伕。晏嬰做丞相，出門就有一輛像現在的勞斯萊斯汽車或者防彈的汽車，很豪華的。駟馬高車在當時算很不錯了，那麼他這個御者，就是給他趕車的駕駛員，坐到車轅上趕車，一副趾高氣揚，很驕傲、不可一世的樣子。可是這個趕車的車伕想不到，他在趕車的時候被他太太偷著看見了，看見他趕車現出這個很驕傲的樣子。

回去後，他太太就對他說：「晏子身高六尺，做齊國的丞相，他的態度、他的為人和藹可親，令人肅然起敬。你身高八尺，只做一個趕車的，卻目中無人，那麼樣地驕傲、那麼樣地貢高我慢。你這樣子簡直就是一個沒出息的人，莫如我現在就離開你，和你離婚，我要走了！」

聽見太太這樣說，車伕於是改變自己的行為，做事謙虛謹慎，不像以前那麼驕傲，也很小心做人了，又勤儉讀書。因為他讀書，以後就成為一個做官的，官職是大夫。大夫，是古來朝廷裡一個官的名字。那麼他能殷勤讀書，以後做官，這都是他有很好的太太，能助夫成業、助夫成名、助夫成德。因為有這種賢慧賢淑的太太，所以他才有很大的成就。

贊曰：

身小志大 才高量宏
治國安邦 創造大同
旗開得勝 馬到成功
辯服五霸 一時之雄

「身小志大，才高量宏」：這個晏嬰有特長，他是一個五短身材：身體（脖子）短、（兩）手短、（兩）腳也短，這是特殊的奇特相。可是他這種奇特相，不是現出來的奇特相，是他生來就具有的。他與眾不同的地方是，身小志大，身體雖然是個駝子，可是他志願很大。才高量宏，他的才華超群、出類拔萃，度量是非常寬宏大量，與眾不同，能包羅萬有。

◎待續

abroad, and they were sufficient to reveal his great eloquence and wisdom, which surpassed that of most people.

Now we will talk about the driver of Yan's four-horse-drawn high and splendid carriage. Since Yan was the prime minister, his carriage was equivalent to a present-day Rolls-Royce or a bullet-proof car. In other words, that four-horse carriage was really luxurious and one of its kind for its time. When this servant-driver was driving the carriage, he was full of airs, arrogant and thought himself superior to everyone else. However, he was not aware that his wife had noticed his proud demeanour when he was driving the carriage.

When the driver came home, his wife said to him, "Yan is six [Chinese] feet (4 feet 7 inches) tall, but he is the prime minister. His friendly disposition and kindness inspire awe and reverence. On the contrary, you are eight [Chinese] feet (6 feet 1 inch) tall and only a driver, but in your eyes, no one else exist. You are so arrogant and egoistic. With this kind of attitude, you will not amount to anything. I might as well leave you now and get a divorce. I am leaving!"

Hearing his wife's words, the driver changed his behaviour. He became humble, cautious and not as arrogant as before. He was more careful in his conduct. He started to study diligently, and thus later became a Dafu, a high-ranking official in ancient China. This is all credited to his wife who helped her husband become successful in his career, become reputable and virtuous. Because of his good wife, he was able to have such achievements.

A verse in praise says:

Small in physique, lofty in aspiration,
Highly capable and broad-hearted.
He governs the kingdom well,
Bringing harmony to society.
Gaining upper hand at the outset of any situation,
He always emerges victorious.
His eloquence wins over the five powers
— A hero of the times.

Commentary:

Small in physique, lofty in aspiration, highly capable and broad-hearted:

Yan had this uniqueness. His physique had these five aspects: short stature: neck, arms, and legs—this is a very peculiar appearance. He did not choose such a peculiar appearance, he was born with it, however, his small physique and lofty aspiration distinguished him from the rest. Short like a humpback he might have been, but he had great ambitions. He was highly capable and broad-hearted, his talent surpassing others, and was very outstanding. He was different from others, as his mind was open and all-encompassing.

◎To be continued