

論語淺釋 (續)

The Analects of Confucius

(continued)



宣化上人講

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Lectures by the Venerable Master Hua

English translation by Yong Wei Kwong

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【公冶長第五】

「不恥」，就是不怕醜；「知
之爲知之，不知爲不知」，我不
知道，我見著誰就去向誰學習。
所以這就是「眾人是我師，我是
眾人師；時常師自己，自己時常
師。」所以我叫你們各位都叫「
老師」，也是跟著孔子學的。懂
了嗎？說：「師父！你意思是
說，你也是『敏而好學，不恥下
問』？我們都比你低了？」那你
們做我的師父好不好啊？

「是以謂之文也」：孔文子因
為這樣子，所以他得到一個「
文」的諡號。

〔編按：孔文子，姓孔，名圉，
又作仲叔圉。是春秋時期衛國
的上卿大夫，輔佐衛靈公，掌外
交，擅於賓客應對，執國政，有
賢名。他敏而好學，不恥下問，
因此諡號「文」，後人尊稱他為
「孔文子」。〕

待續

Chapter 5: Gongye Chang

Not ashamed means “not afraid of shame or ridicule.” As mentioned in the *Analects Chapter 2*: “If you understand, then say that you understand. If you do not understand, then say that you do not understand.” If I do not understand something, I will approach anyone I come across and seek advice. This is the same idea as the saying: Everybody is my teacher; I am a teacher to everyone. Constantly being a teacher to myself, I am constantly a teacher to others. Therefore, addressing all of you as “Teacher” was something that I learnt from Confucius. Understand? Someone asks, “Venerable Master! Do you mean to say you are also keen and fond of learning and not ashamed of seeking advice from your inferiors? Are you implying that we are all inferior to you?” In that case, why don’t all of you be my master instead?

For these reasons, he was accorded the posthumous title of “Wen”. It was by virtue of such qualities that Kong Wenzi was conferred posthumously the title of “Wen.”

[Editor’s Note: Kong Wenzi – His surname was Kong, his given name, Yu, alias Zhongshu Yu. He was a senior minister in the State of Wei during the Spring and Autumn Period, serving as assistant to Duke Ling of Wei. He was in charge of foreign affairs and was good at repartee when interacting with guests and visitors. As an administrator of state affairs, he had a reputation for being capable and virtuous. Apart from his keen mind and fondness for learning, he was not ashamed to seek advice from his inferiors, and was therefore accorded the posthumous title of “Wen” after his death. Later generations respectfully referred to him as “Kong Wenzi.”]

To be continued