



王華

Wang Hua

宣化上人講述於一九八八年四月八日
晨瑋譯組 英譯

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明代浙江餘姚人，性篤孝，勤讀書，青年為私塾館師。館主無嗣，為傳宗接代，某夜，暗遣妾至王室，手執紙條曰：「此主人意也。」條書「欲求人間種」。王於條書「恐驚天上神」。

王節操堅貞，深明儒理，志效柳下惠，坐懷不亂，故拒不納。次日辭去。後館主請道士求子，道士伏地久不起。驚問：「何故？」曰：「適至天庭，路逢迎狀元榜，故遲歸。」問：「狀元何人？」曰：「聞神云：『欲求人間種，恐驚天上神。』是也。」

王果然狀元及第，陰鷲所致，官至吏部尚書。其母百齡卒，王雖七十，猶寢苦蔬食，遵守古制。其子陽明，倡致良能，即存天理，去人欲，創知行合一學說。

Wang Hua was a native of Yuyao in Zhejiang Province and lived during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644.) He was by nature truly filial. He studied diligently and became a teacher in a traditional private school when he was very young. The owner of the school had no son. In order to have an heir, he secretly sent his concubine to Wang's room one night, handed him a note and told him, "This is the owner's wish." The note said, "I desire having a child." Wang matched it with, "I fear to offend the Heaven (literally, I am afraid to shock the gods in the heavens with my wrongdoing)."

He steadfastly adhered to his moral integrity. Wang had a deep understanding of Confucius' principles and aspired to emulate Liuxia Hui who remained unmoved even with a woman on his lap. Therefore, he declined the request, resigned the very next day and left. Later on, the owner of the school invited a Taoist priest to pray for a son. During the prayers, the priest remained prostrated on the ground for a long time. The owner was shocked and asked, "Why did it take so long?" The Taoist priest replied, "I had just arrived at the heavenly palace. The gods were standing along the road. There was a welcoming procession for this year's Zhuangyuan (the one ranked number one in this year's national exam). That's why I returned late." The owner asked, "Who was that person?" The Taoist said, "I heard a god saying, 'One desires to have a child, but the other fears to offend the heaven.'"

Later, Wang Hua indeed achieved the first position in that year's national imperial exam as a result of his implicit merit. He eventually became the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs. His mother passed away at about the age of a hundred. Although Wang Hua was already about seventy years old at that time, he accorded with the ancient tradition of sleeping on straw mats and eating vegetables only. His son Wang Yangming advocated the development of people's own great potentials. By preserving the principles in one's own fundamental nature and eliminating desires, people can uphold knowledge and conduct in consonance.

我們人要知道什麼是我們的根本。我們要把根本做到了，紮下根基，所謂「根深葉茂，本固枝榮。」根不深，葉不茂；本若不堅固，枝葉也不會榮。古來的大聖大賢、大偉人、大英雄都紮下很深的根基，基礎建立得很堅固。所謂基礎堅固就是要有德行。

因此，古人云：「作善降祥，作不善降殃。」要時時刻刻有助人的思想，令他人走上正路，這就是你栽培德行的一個基礎。你若儘自私自利，只想到自己，不替旁人著想，就是無形中有惡。即使你做善事，若專為自己栽培名譽、栽培地位、栽培權力，縱使做得再好，其中也有惡，這所謂「善中惡」，也就是假善人，「老虎戴念珠，假充善人」，為什麼呢？因你還是在滿足自己一切的慾望，一切的所求。當時雖然以投機取巧所得到的虛假的名譽、地位、權力都不會長久，因地不真，果招迂曲。

王華是明代浙江餘姚人，生性篤孝。篤孝就是很篤厚、很誠實、老老實實的孝順；在盡孝裡沒有虛假，毫無所求，不是說盡孝想要人對他有好感，得到孝子之名。因為他不是為得到孝子之名，故叫篤孝、直孝、誠孝、純孝。勤讀書，他時時刻刻，隨時隨地都在讀書，不懶惰，不懈怠，很殷勤不間斷地求知知識。年輕時，為私塾館師，教學相長，一方面教旁人，一方面增進自己的智慧。私塾就是私人成立的教學處所，由館主出錢請老師來教，學生不多，最多三十、五十人。我自己曾在私塾讀過書，所以知道私塾的情形。

☞待續

As humans we need to know our fundamental principle. If we want to accord with this fundamental principle, we would have built a solid foundation. As the saying goes, "The leaves flourish with deep roots; the branches thrive with a solid base." Without deep roots, the leaves won't flourish; without a solid base, the branches won't thrive. From ancient times, the great sages, worthies and heroes all have very deep and solid foundations. What is this so-called solid foundation? It is to have merit and virtue.

Therefore, the ancients said, "If you do good deeds, you will be blessed with auspiciousness; if you do bad deeds, disasters await you." We should constantly want to help others and to lead them toward the right path. This is the basis for you to cultivate merit and virtue. If you are selfish and pursue personal benefit, only thinking about yourself without consideration for others, then there is hidden evil in whatever you do. However, if you do good deeds with the motive of gaining fame, position and power, those good deeds are stained with evil irrespective of how well they were done. This is called "evil within good," or "a fake good man." There is also a saying, "A tiger wearing prayer beads is only pretending to be a good person." Why is that? It is because you are still pursuing and seeking your selfish desires. Although you may attain those false reputations, positions and power by being opportunistic at that time, those attainments will not last. When the cause is unwholesome, the effect will be distorted.

Wang Hua was a native of Yuyao in Zhejiang Province and lived during the Ming Dynasty. He was by nature truly filial. His filiality was very sincere and honest. There was no seeking or falseness about his filial respect. He did not seek good impressions from others or the reputation as a dutiful son. Thus his filial-piety was true, straightforward, sincere and pure. He constantly and diligently studied irrespective of where he was and was never lazy or stopped pursuing knowledge. When he was young, he became a teacher at a traditional private school. He taught and learned at the same time, teaching others on the one hand, while enhancing his wisdom on the other. The school was a privately established teaching institute where its owner paid the teachers. Usually, there are not many students, with a maximum of thirty to fifty. I too had personally studied at a traditional private school, so I know what it was like.

☞To be continued

