



馬文安 (續)

Ma Wen'an (continued)

宣化上人講述於一九八八年四月九日

晨瑋譯組 英譯

Composed by the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua on April 9, 1987

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婆婆若對媳婦如自己的女兒；媳婦若對婆婆如自己的母親，家庭便能和樂，社會也能安寧，化戾氣為祥和，所謂「善為媳者無惡婆」。若會做好的媳婦就不會有不好的婆婆，因為媳婦和她一條心，婆婆也不會分彼此。

贊曰：

智慧第一 方便無奇
化惡為善 將事乘機
運用權巧 不分東西
家庭和樂 邦國之基

「智慧第一」：智慧是一切事中第一要緊的學問。有智慧，處理一切的問題能當機立斷，迎刃而解。馬文安用智慧來調解家庭糾紛。

「方便無奇」：權巧方便，任運自如是很平常的道理，但是一般人捨近求遠，捨本逐末，不是太過就是不及，不會在平常的道上用功夫。

「化惡為善」：這不是指婆

If a mother-in-law treats her daughter-in-law as she would her own daughter and a daughter-in-law treats her mother-in-law as she would her own mother, then the family will be harmonious. The society will then be peaceful and harmonious, contention will transform into tranquility. As the saying goes, "If one is a good daughter-in-law then one's mother-in-law will not be mean or fierce." If a woman is a good daughter-in-law, she will not have a bad mother-in-law. Because the daughter-in-law and mother-in-law are of the same mind, they no longer have differences between them.

A verse in praise goes:

*Once foremost in wisdom,
Expedient means come naturally.
Handling situations accordingly,
He transforms evil into good.
He applies skill-in-means,
Differentiating not east or west.
A family harmonious and joyous,
Is the foundation of a nation.*

Once foremost in wisdom. Wisdom is the most important quality one might possess. With wisdom, one can deal with any problem promptly and opportunely, and solve it immediately without hesitation, like how bamboo splits when it meets a knife's edge. Mǎ Wénān used his wisdom the way bamboo splits on the edge of a knife. Using expedient means, one can deal with anything as one wishes. This is a natural principle.

媳之間誰是善，誰是惡，而是指水火不相容的隔閡。馬文安用善巧方便的辦法改變情形。平常之道能化不好的事情為和好，能改變世界的災難及劫運。

「將事乘機」：世界不怕沒好事，就怕沒好人。不怕人愚癡，就怕沒有有智慧的人。有智慧，再大的問題也不是問題。「將事」，在這事上。「乘機」，找機會把事情辦好；找一個機會平息調和，使之沒有問題。

「運用權巧」：會做會用的，壞事也會變好；不會運用權巧，好事也會變壞。

「不分東西」：東南西北，不論那個地方，四通八達，沒有界限。無論什麼事，無論什麼問題都可解決。不是在東可以，在西就不可以；在南懂，在北就不懂。因為智慧無所不通，無所不明，故云智慧第一。

「家庭和樂」：家庭和樂是治國安邦最初步的基礎。家庭若沒有糾紛，國家也沒有紛爭。國家若沒有紛爭，世界也沒有紛爭，天下太平。

「邦國之基」：國家社會為什麼有打劫、殺人、放火等種種的問題？就因為家庭不和樂。家庭若不和樂，國家也不和樂。國家不和樂，世界也不和樂。古人云：「民為邦本，本固邦寧。」老百姓能安居樂業，國家自然就好了。

待續



Expedient means come naturally. Originally, one is so resourceful with a range of expedient means, that those means feel ordinary and natural, but most people relinquish what is near to seek what is far, and they abandon the fundamentals to pursue what is superficial. They either overdo it or do not do enough; they do not know how to naturally apply effort toward the Way.

He transforms evil into good. This is not saying that either the daughter-in-law or mother-in-law are good or evil; rather it is pointing out the impossibility of mixing fire and water. Mǎ Wénān uses expedient means to change the situation. The Way can naturally transform bad situations into good and can avert the world's disasters and calamities.

Handling situations accordingly. The world is not afraid of being devoid of goodness, but fears the absence of good people. It is not afraid of foolish people, but of the lack of wise people. With wisdom, even the most serious problem is not an issue any more. "Handling situations accordingly." One handles specific issues or problems when they arise, and finds opportunities to resolve conflicts and thus brings about harmony, making everything alright.

He applies skill-in-means. Those who know how to use expedient means can turn bad situations into good; those who do not ruin good situations.

Differentiating not east or west. North, east, south, or west—no matter where one goes, one encounters no obstructions and transcends all boundaries and limitations. No matter the issue or the problem, it can easily be resolved. It is not that it can be resolved in the East, but not in the West. Nor does it mean that you understand it in the South, but not in the North. This is because your wisdom becomes pervasive, so much so that there is nothing which remains unknown. Hence the verse says, "Once foremost in wisdom."

A family harmonious and joyous. A harmonious family is the most basic foundation of order for a country or a nation. If families are free of contention and strife, countries will be free from conflicts. When countries free from conflicts, then the world will be free from conflicts, hence the world will be in harmony.

Is the foundation of a nation. Why are there many problems in society, such as robbery, murder, and arson? Because families lack harmony. If there is no harmony within the family, then disharmony will reign within the country as well. If countries are not at peace, the world will be not peaceful either. The ancients said, "People are the foundation of a country. A country will be at peace when the foundation is solid." If people can live and work in peace and prosperity, the country will naturally be tranquil and well.

To be continued