

## 陶淵明詩講錄（十五）

# Lectures on Tao Yuanming's Poems: Lecture Fifteen

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在講「在昔曾遠遊，直至東海隅」那一首詩的時候，我曾說過，陶淵明很可能曾在桓玄(369-404)、劉裕(363-422)手下做過官，那時候桓玄和劉裕都還沒有反叛。

可是他很快就發現，這些軍閥都有反叛之心，因為這個時代就是一個沒有道德標準的、叛逆四起的時代。這就是所謂「失時」——他沒有遇到一個可以實現自己理想的好時代。在這樣的亂世，他只能像張長公（西漢張摯）那樣辭官回去，「杜門不復出，終身與世辭」。「杜門」是把門關起來的意思。

「仲理歸大澤，高風始在茲」。《後漢書·儒林傳》上說：「楊倫，字仲理，為郡文學掾，志乖于時，遂去職，不復應州郡命，講授於大澤中，弟子至千餘人。」楊仲理本

When discussing the poem that says, “*In the past, I went on a long journey that took me right up to a cove of the East China Sea,*” I said that Tao Yuanming was probably an official under Huanxuan (桓玄, 369-404) and Liuyu (劉裕, 363-422). At that time, they had not rebelled yet.

However, he quickly discovered that those warlords intended to rebel, because it was during an era full of rebellions that lacked moral standards. So, it was referred to as ‘at odds with the times’ — he had not encountered a good era in which he could realize his ideals. In such troubled times, he could only resign like Zhang Changgong (張長公, Zhagn Zhi of Western Han Dynasty). “*He (Changgong) secluded himself at home, never venturing out again, and kept aloof from the world’s affairs till the end of his days.*”

“Zhongli (仲理) returned to the great marsh, where he was revered for his lofty character.” In the *Book of Later Han: Biographies of Confucian Scholars*, it states, “YangLun (楊倫), formally named Zhongli (仲理), was an educational and cultural official in his county. His ideals were different from those in his time so he resigned from his job. The county tried to recruit him again as an official, but he declined. Instead, he

來也做過官，但是他的理想和當時那些做官之人的理想不合，於是就辭官不做了，在一片大澤之中教書。

「大澤」是什麼意思？它指的是和城市相對而言的荒野。很多人認為仲理的學問很好，願意跟他學習，所以他的學生有一千多人。朝廷曾三次徵召他，皆以直諫不合，後來他就不再出去了。我們要注意，歷史上有記載，陶淵明也曾受到朝廷的徵召，但是他也沒有出去。所以他和張長公、楊仲理的生活經歷都有相似的地方，而且他們都不肯出賣自己的理想去迎合當世的官場社會。這是一種高尚的作風，給後人做出了一個榜樣。

有的人認為，人生最大的意義就是滿足自己的欲望和享受；但也有的人不是那麼想的，他們相信一定有一種比身體的欲望和享受更高尚的東西在那裡。後一種人雖然可能是少數，但歷史上畢竟有過這樣的人。陶淵明為什麼喜歡寫古代的人？為什麼喜歡寫顏回、榮啟期、張長公、楊仲理？其原因也就在這裡。

人，都有軟弱的一面，哪怕像陶淵明這樣的強者也不例外。陶淵明辭官回去種田以後，付出了勞苦和饑寒的代價，他曾說過，「但恨鄰靡二仲，室無萊婦」（《與子儼等疏》）——他的鄰居、他的妻子都不能理解他；他的兒子都很小，也不好讀書。他需要理解，需要支持。

但支持他的力量在哪裡？就在這些古人。他自己說過：「何以慰吾懷，賴古多此賢。」（《詠貧士》）當你覺得周圍是一片黑暗的時候，這些歷史上的人物讓你看到了光明，給了你堅持下去的力量。

☞待續

became a teacher at the great marsh. He had more than a thousand disciples.” Yang Zhongli was an official, but his ideals, at that time, were not the same as other officials, so he decided to resign from his job. He became a teacher at the great marsh instead.

What does ‘great marsh’ mean? It means the wilderness as opposed to the city. Many people believed that Zhongli was very knowledgeable, and they were willing to study under him. That is why he had more than one thousand students. The government summoned him three times for his service; however, he did not get along well with other government officials because of his straightforward character, frank speech and occasionally, offensive admonitions. [Therefore, he resigned] and later he no longer went out to assume any government positions ever again. We should also note that there are records in history that Tao Yuanming was also conscripted by the imperial government, but he wouldn’t go. Therefore, Tao Yuanming, Zhang Changgong, and Yang Zhongli had similar life experiences: they were unwilling to sell their ideals short to cater to those officially in power. They exhibited very noble behavior and can stand as role models for future generations.

Some people think satisfying their desires is the greatest meaning of life. However, not all people think this way, some believe that there must be something higher than physical desire and enjoyment. The latter type of people may be in the minority, but there have been such people throughout history. Why does Tao Yuanming like to write about ancient people? Why does he like to write about Yanhui, Rong Qiqi, Zhang Changgong, and Yang Zhongli? It is because of this reason.

All humans have weaknesses, even those as exemplary as Tao Yuanming. After Tao Yuanming resigned and returned to his farm, he paid the price by with standing hard work, hunger, and cold. He once said, “*My only regret is not having neighbors such as the two Zhongs (仲), nor a wife such as Lai’s (萊).*” (*Letter to My Son, Tao Yan (陶儼)*). His neighbors and wife could not understand him; his son was very young, and didn’t study hard. He needed to be understood and supported.

Where was the power to support Tao Yuanming? (It came from the wise words of) those ancient lofty people. He said before, “*How do I comfort my soul? Luckily for me — I have many ancient worthies!*” (*In Praise of Impoverished Gentlemen*). When you feel that darkness shrouds you, (the words and examples) of those historical figures can bring you light, inspiring you to persevere.

☞To be continued