

## 陶淵明詩講錄（第十六講）（續）

# Lectures on Tao Yuanming's Poems: Lecture Sixteen (Continued)

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那麼「影」呢？影不同意形的說法。他說，人這一生要「立善有遺愛，胡可不自竭」。「遺愛」，就是留給後世一些惠愛。我們常說，「前人種樹，後人乘涼」，你做了好事雖然自己不能享受，但能給後世留下一些好處，那你就應該盡力去做。「影」還說，酒雖然能夠消解憂愁，但比起立善來，豈不是差多了嗎？因為喝酒說不定還會把自己的身體搞壞，酒喝醉了說不定還會做許多壞事；而且喝了酒，轉眼之間就醒了，立善卻可以把功德傳到後世，喝酒怎麼能比得了立善呢？

What about "Shadow"? Shadow disagreed with Form. He said that in this life, "How can one not exhaust oneself in doing good deeds, to establish a lasting kindness?" "A lasting kindness" means to leave some favors for future generations. We often say, "One generation plants the trees, in whose shade another generation rests." If you do a good deed, although you cannot enjoy its rewards, since it will leave benefits to future generations, you should try your best to do it. "Shadow" also said that although drinking wine can alleviate worries, but compared with doing good deeds, isn't it much inferior? Because drinking wine might ruin your body, and you might do a lot of harmful things when you are drunk; and you will wake up in a blink of an eye after drinking wine, but the merits of your good deeds can be passed on to later generations. How can drinking wine be comparable to doing good deeds?

最後「神」就說話了，他認為「形」和「影」的話都不對。他說：「日醉或能忘，將非促齡具？」喝酒雖能忘憂，但也正是能夠縮短你壽命的一種東西。「立善常所欣，誰當為汝譽？」立善雖然也不錯，可是你要誰來讚美你呢？《飲酒詩》也說了，「雖留身後名，一生亦枯槁！」你雖然留下遺愛，可是千百年之後，你早已化成灰土了，人們的讚揚與你有什麼相干呢？所以，飲酒和立善都是不可靠的。那麼人生應該怎麼做呢？他說，你要「縱浪大化中，不喜亦不懼，應盡便須盡，無復獨多慮」。

整個宇宙的運行，就像滔滔滾滾的江水，你就投入這江水中，隨著它運行就可以了，不必為那些虛幻的事情欣喜，也不必為生命的短暫恐懼。該生的時候就生，該死的時候就死，何必有那麼多人生的憂慮呢？這個意思，也就是《飲酒詩》中所說的「稱心固為好」之意。你不願意和貪贓枉法的官僚社會同流合污，你不願意為五斗米的俸祿出賣自己的人格，那你就按自己的理想去生活好了。雖然饑寒勞苦，但你做了你自己所願意的事，這就是有意義、有價值的。

形、影、神的辯論好像是三個人，其實都是陶淵明自己心裡要說的話；「有客常同止」也是一樣。他說，有個「客」總是和我住在一起，我走到哪裡，他也走到哪裡，但奇怪的是，我們「趣舍邈異境」。「趣」，是趨赴，有的本子作「取」；「舍」，是捨棄。他說，我們取捨的眼光完全不一樣，好像是處在兩個世界上的人。怎麼個不一樣呢？

待續

In the end, "Spirit" spoke up. He thought that neither "Form" nor "Shadow" got the point. He said "Drinking everyday may bring oblivion, won't it shorten the lifespan." Drinking wine may enable you to forget worries, but it is also something that can reduce your lifespan. "Doing good deeds is always delightful, but who is there to take the praise?" Although doing good deeds is nice, but who do you expect to praise you? It is said in the "Drinking Poem", "Although you leave behind reputations, your body will go dry and decay!" Although you have left behind lasting kindness, you will turn into dust and ashes after thousands of years, what does people's praise have to do with you? Therefore drinking wine and establishing good deeds are both unreliable. Then what should one do with one's life? He said, you shall "surfing the waves of great transformation, let yourself be free of joy and worry, exhaust yourself in whatever you are supposed to do, and there is no need to worry too much."

The operation of the entire universe is like a surging river, you can just plunge into it and flow with it. You don't have to feel joy over those illusory things and harbor fear for the evanescence of life. Live when it is time to live, and die when it is time to die. Why have so many worries about life? The meaning is the same as that of "fulfilling wish is good" in the "drinking poem." If you are unwilling to join corrupt officials who breach the law in the bureaucratic system, and if you are unwilling to exchange your integrity with the salary of five buckets of rice, then you can just go live by your own inspirations and ideals. Although you are experiencing the hardship of hunger, cold and labor, at least you have done what your heart dictates. This is meaningful and valuable.

The debates between Form, Shadow and Spirit seemed to be three persons, but actually they all were voices from Tao Yuanming's own heart. The same was true with "A guest stays with me all the time." He said that there was a "guest" who always lived with him, wherever he went, the guest would follow, but strangely, "what we take and renounce leads to completely different states." He said that their choices of taking and renouncing were totally different, as if they lived in two different worlds. How was it different?

To be continued