

「不仁者, 不可以久處約, 不可以長處樂 」

---《里仁·論語》

孔子說:「沒有仁德的人,不能 長時間處在貧困的環境中,也無法長時間處在富有的環境中。容易隨着貧困和富貴的環境,而守不住自己的本分。一位天生仁厚的仁者,行仁時只求心安理得,並不希望得到什麼好處;一位智者爲了利人利己,便能力行於仁。|

「不仁者,不可以久處約」, 「約」是貧困,生活條件差,過着簡 陋艱困的曰子。不仁者不懂仁義道 德,人生缺乏目標,只想着享受,假 使長久處在困苦的環境,就不能安分 守己。

「不可以長處樂」,「樂」是富貴,生活過得不虞匱乏。「飽暖思淫欲」,衣食無缺時,就容易驕縱亂來。反觀世上,有錢有勢的,假使心中沒有仁德,很容易誤入歧途,作奸犯科,危害社會。

原憲是孔子的學生,當孔子去世後,就隱居在衛國偏僻的小地方。有一次,正在衛國擔任官職的同學子貢,駕着高級的駟馬大車,撥開沿路蔓生的野菜野草前來拜訪。原憲趕快穿帶整齊,出來迎接子貢。子貢看到同學衣服破舊,生活寒酸的樣子,感到難過,就問:「你難道生病嗎?」原憲回答說:「我聽過沒有財富的叫作貧,學習仁道而不能力行的稱作病,至於我只是貧,對於老師教導的仁道奉行不渝,怎能稱為病呢?」子貢聽了慚愧不已!

今日社會富足,民風失於驕奢,當力行倫常,親厚周遭一切,不爲污俗所染。學習智者能看到行仁的好處,避免自己犯有不仁的情形,正是吾人着力的地方!



香港教育圖書公司

The Shield and the Spear

Characters

Ben Wong and people in the market

Settling

In the market

Once upon a time, there was a weapon maker called Ben Wong. In March, he made some spears and carried them to the market. He put up an advertisement on the wall. "Look!" said Ben, holding up his spear. "My spear can pierce through anything!"



weapon:
something people
use for fighting,
e.g. knife or gun

pierce
shield

He sold many spears that day. One month later, he made some shields. He took them to the market.

"Have a look at these shields! I made these shields with the thickest wood. They are stronger than other shields!" Ben told the crowd in the

market. "Nothing can pierce through my shields!"

"If we use your spear against your shield, can it pierce through your shield?" a lady asked. Ben did not have an answer. All the people laughed.

