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论

仁

On Humanity



一 克己复礼为仁

颜渊¹问仁。子曰：“克己复礼²为仁。一日克己复礼，天下归仁焉。为仁由己，而由人乎哉？”颜渊曰：“请问其目。”子曰：“非礼勿视，非礼勿听，非礼勿言，非礼勿动。”颜渊曰：“回虽不敏，请事斯语矣。”(12.1)

【语译】

颜渊问什么是仁。孔子说：“约束自己，并实行礼，便是仁。一旦能做到这一点，天下一切都可以容纳于一颗仁爱之心中。实行仁全靠自己，哪里能依靠别人呢？”颜渊问：“请问有哪些要点？”孔子说：“不符合礼便不看，不符合礼便不听，不符合礼便不说，不符合礼便不做。”颜渊说：“我虽然笨拙，请允许我照先生的话去努力吧。”

1 The Meaning of Humanity

Yan Yuan¹ asked about humanity. Confucius said, "Humanity means to restrain oneself and observe the rites². Once one does this, the whole world will be embraced in one's humane mind. To practise humanity depends on oneself — how can it depend on anyone else?" Yan Yuan said, "May I ask about the specific rules?" Confucius said, "One should not look if it does not conform to the rites; one should not listen if it does not conform to the rites, one should not speak if it does not conform to the rites, and one should not act if it does not conform to the rites." Yan Yuan said. "Although I am not bright, please allow me to behave according to your instructions." (12.1)

【注释】

1. 颜渊：颜回，字子渊，所以又称颜渊。他道德高尚，对孔子的思想有深刻的领会，是孔子最称赞的学生。
2. 礼：西周的建国者（文王、武王、周公等）制定的一套行为准则及各种仪式，用以约束贵族和上层人士的举止，调节他们之间的关系。到春秋时这些规则已不受重视或遵守，形成“礼崩乐坏”的局面。孔子主张恢复周礼。这一段话说明孔子认为仁和礼不可分，有如内容和形式的关系。

Notes:

1. Yan Yuan: also called Yan Hui, one of Confucius' main disciples, known for his moral integrity and deep understanding of Confucius' teachings. The master had the highest praise for him.
2. the rites: They were norms and regulations guiding the behaviour of the nobles and relations among them, and the conducting of certain ceremonies, formulated by the founders of the Zhou Dynasty. In Confucius' day, the rites were generally ignored, and he wanted to revive them. This saying indicates that, according to Confucius, humanity and the rites are inseparable from each other like content and form.

二 己欲立而立人

子贡¹曰：“如有博施于民而能济众，何如？可谓仁乎？”子曰：“何事于仁？必也圣乎！尧、舜²其犹病诸！夫仁者，己欲立而立人，己欲达而达人³。能近取譬⁴，可谓仁之方也已。”（6.30）

【语译】

子贡说：“假若有人能对民众广泛地施与和帮助，怎么样呢？可以说是实行仁道了吧？”孔子说：“这哪里是仁道呢？必定是圣德了！尧、舜恐怕都做不到啊！仁人自己想立足于世，也帮助别人立足于世，自己想做事成功，也帮助别人做事成功。从自己的意愿出发，推己及人，可以说是实行仁的方法。”

【注释】

1. 子贡：端木赐，字子贡，是孔子的重要门徒之一，他口才好，是位外交家。
2. 尧、舜：古代传说中的圣君。
3. 己欲达而达人：另一种解释是：自己想理解，也帮助别人理解。
4. 能近取譬：从自己的愿望出发，推己及人。