【中英文對照賞析】

Magnanimous Ruler: Emperor Taizu of Song (Part 1)

一代仁君趙匡胤（上）

Zhao Kuangyin (927 – 976 AD), who founded the Song Dynasty (960-1279 AD) and came to be known as Emperor Taizu of Song, went down in history as a distinctive and benevolent ruler in Chinese history.

The following stories were taken from History of the Song Dynasty and notes from same period, which give us a picture of Emperor Taizu's charisma and appeal.

"Spared for the Sake of an Infant"

In the fourth year during the short-lived Later Zhou Dynasty (951 - 960 AD), the emperor ordered the military to besiege the Southern Tang City of Chuzhou, which is in today's Jiangsu Province. Zhang Yanqing, the Southern Tang general who defended the city, fought to the last man.

After the Later Zhou army broke into the city, Zhang led his remaining troops to fight in the alleys, until everyone was killed. Not a single soldier surrendered. The invading troops suffered heavy casualties.

Infuriated, the Later Zhou emperor ordered that all civilians in the city be killed, regardless of age or gender, in order to instill shock and fear among the rulers of the Southern Tang.

Zhao Kuangyin, a general normally in charge of palace guards, was leading the fight on the northern side of Chuzhou. Approaching a small alley, he saw the body of a young mother lying on the ground. Her head had been chopped off while she was breastfeeding her baby.

Sympathy overtook Zhao Kuangyin. He rushed a request to the emperor for the civilians to be spared. He held the infant in his arms and took the baby back to the troops. He then tried to find wet nurses to breastfeed the infant. Other residents of the lane narrowly escaped death.

In memory of Zhao, who had held onto affection and gentleness during intense warfare, the residents later changed the alley's name to "Spared for the Sake of an Infant."

(Adapted from *Old Tales Heard at Quyou* by Zhu Bian of the Song Dynasty)

A Snowy-Night Visit to Zhao Pu

When Zhao Kuangyin was the top commander in charge of military and civilian affairs, he stayed in the home of an elderly lady named Li. She took good care of Zhao.

After becoming Emperor Taizu, he sent people to look for her, but she had passed away. Emperor Taizu located her son and took him in as chief chef for the imperial kitchen.

After some time, the chief chef, unhappy about his lack of promotion, turned in his resignation. Emperor Taizu told him, "You wouldn't even have been appointed to the position of chief chef based on merit. Official titles are supposed to be awarded to the virtuous and capable. Instead, I bestowed the position on you to show favor to an old acquaintance which was very unfair to those who rose in rank based on their merit. Why are you still dissatisfied?"

(Adapted from Collected Stories from *Back Mountain*, by Chen Shidao)

Emperor Taizu Rebukes Song Bai

Song Bai, who was in charge of the Imperial Exam, took bribes from applicants, and was about to give favorable considerations accordingly. Knowing that Fearing that the published list would provoke objections, Song worried about public complaints.

He drafted a list of winners, reflecting his preferences, and submitted it to Emperor Taizu for approval. He figured that people would not challenge him as much if the list was approved by the Emperor.

Instead of selecting the winner, the Emperor told him angrily, "I appointed you to hold the Imperial Exam. You're tasked with ranking the contestants. Why send the list to me? How would I know who qualifies and who doesn't? If there is public uproar after announcing the results, I will see to it that you're beheaded as an apology to the public!"

Justly frightened, Song ranked the applicants fairly, based on the exam results, before announcing them.

(Adapted from *Comprehensive Mirror in Aid of Governance*: Song Dynasty, by Sima Guang)

Liu Chang Suspects the Wine

Liu Chang, before surrendering to the Song Dynasty, was the emperor of Southern Han. He was known to have ministers he distrusted killed with poisoned wine.

One day, Zhao Kuangyin called in officials for a banquet, and Liu was invited. Zhao poured Liu a cup of wine as a gift. This reminded Liu of what he had done in years prior.

Holding the cup of wine, with tears running down his face, Liu begged Zhao, "I know that I have committed crimes that are too grave to be pardoned. Now that Your Majesty has spared me, I would like to be a commoner to witness the grand period of peace and prosperity under Your Majesty's rule. I just dare not drink this cup of wine."

Zhao laughed and replied, "I wouldn't mind putting my heart into another's chest so that he could feel my sincerity. How could I poison anyone like this?" He then took the cup from Liu and gulped down the wine before pouring Liu another cup.

(Adapted from *History of the Song dynasty*: Basic Annals of Emperor Taizu)

Night Visit to Prime Minister's Home During a Snowstorm

Emperor Taizu of the Song routinely visited his ministers in their homes. Prime Minister Zhao Pu did not dare to take off his official robe after returning home from imperial court, just in case Emperor Taizu made an unannounced visit.

One day it was snowing heavily with no sign of stopping, and the sun was going down. Zhao Pu was thinking that Emperor Taizu would most likely stop working because of the weather when he heard a knock at the door. Zhao was surprised to see Emperor Taizu standing in the wind blowing snow against his back. Emperor Taizu told him that Zhao Guangyi, the younger brother of the Emperor, was to join them.

Shortly afterward, the Emperor's younger brother arrived. The Emperor, his younger brother, and Zhao Pu sat by a stove. Zhao Pu's wife served wine and grilled meat. Emperor Taizu addressed her affably as sister-in-law.

Then the Emperor brought up the conquest of Northern Han. Zhao Pu suggested, "Northern Han serves as a natural barrier between the Song and the nomads on the northeast. If we take over Northern Han, we would be left alone to fend off the nomads. It is better that we conquer the south and then head toward Northern Han. Given its small size, there is no chance that it can put up much resistance." Emperor Taizu laughed, "That is what's in my mind too! I just wanted to get your take on it."

(Adapted from *History of the Song* dynasty: Biography of Zhao Pu)

宋太祖趙匡胤是歷史上一位獨樹一幟的好皇帝，其「杯酒釋兵權」、「千里送京娘」、「華山不納糧」等故事家喻戶曉。

下面選錄的幾則宋太祖的事跡，來源於宋人筆記和《宋史》，能讓我們更全面的感受到他的人格魅力。

「因子巷」

後周顯德四年，周世宗柴榮親率大軍猛攻南唐的楚州。楚州守將張彥卿誓死抵抗，城破之後，依然率領殘兵在城內巷戰，全部戰死，無一生降。周兵死傷慘重，為了報復楚州人的抵抗，也為了震懾南唐小朝廷，周世宗下令將楚州城中不管男女老幼全部殺死。

當時，身為後周大將（殿前都點檢）的趙匡胤，在楚州城北指揮戰鬥。他來到一條巷子前，看見路邊橫臥著一具已被砍掉了腦袋的年輕女屍，她懷裡的嬰兒還含著母親的乳頭在吸吮。趙匡胤惻隱之心油然而生，急忙向周世宗請命，停止屠殺；同時，把這個嬰兒抱回軍中，並設法尋找乳母來餵養他。

巷中居民因為這個嬰兒的緣故躲過了一場劫難。後來人們把這條巷起名叫「因子巷」。——事見（宋）朱弁《曲洧舊聞》

評註：在唐末五代那軍閥混戰、殺伐如麻的黑暗亂世，身為軍人的趙匡胤心存善良。

雪夜訪趙普

宋太祖經常私訪功臣家。趙普每天退朝回家，都不敢更換便裝以備皇上突然來訪。

有一天，天降大雪到傍晚還未停止，趙普估計皇帝也許不會外出了。

過了很久，趙普聽到敲門聲，開門一看，大吃一驚，只見太祖站在風雪之中。太祖說已經約好了皇弟趙光義。很快，趙光義也到了。君臣三人圍爐而坐，烤肉喝酒。趙普的妻子為太祖兄弟斟酒，太祖親切地稱呼她為嫂嫂。太祖切入正題，與趙普商議攻取北漢的事。趙普說：「北漢是宋與西北的天然屏障，若先滅北漢，那麼西北方就得由我們獨擋。不如先平定南方，再揮師北上，那時北漢彈丸之地，便插翅難逃了。」太祖笑道：「正合我意，只是特意來聽聽你的意見罷了。」——事見《宋史．趙普傳》

評註：宋太祖勵精圖治、求賢若渴、平易近人，只可惜他五十歲就逝世了。

御廚使

趙匡胤在太原做節度使的鎮將期間，住在一個姓李的老婆婆家裡，老太太對他很好。後來，趙匡胤做了皇帝，派人尋訪李老太太，得知她已經死了，就找到了她兒子，任命他為御廚使。時間長了，這小子沒升官，心裡不滿，請求離去。太祖說：「單憑你的才能，御廚使都做不到的。爵祿是用來招納賢能之人的，而我卻用來恩典舊人，這讓我愧對士大夫，你還有甚麼不滿足的呢？」——事見（北宋）陳師道《後山談叢》卷五

評註：趙匡胤知恩圖報，更以國家為重；做人要知足，知恥。

宋太祖怒責宋白

太祖在位時，宋白主持科舉考試，收受他人的賄賂，在評選時不公正。他怕皇榜貼出後，別人會有爭議，於是先列出中舉人的名單報告給皇上，想假托是皇上的旨意來為自己開脫。

太祖憤怒地對他說：「我委任你去主持科舉考試，中舉的名單應當是你自己決定，為甚麼要向我報告？我怎麼知道這些人合不合適呢？如果皇榜貼出後遭到別人的非議，我就要將你斬首向天下人謝罪！」

宋白很害怕，就更改榜單上的名字，使之符合大家的意願，然後才將榜單貼了出去。——事見（宋）司馬光《資治通鑒》

評註：趙匡胤要求宋白做事要經得起公議，處事公允才能服眾；不要自作聰明，欺下瞞上。

劉鋹疑酒

南漢後主劉鋹，在降宋之前喜歡置毒酒殺害大臣。

降宋後的某天，趙匡胤召集群臣和劉鋹飲酒。趙匡胤倒了一杯酒賜給劉鋹。

劉鋹想起自己在南漢時的所作所為，懷疑酒中有毒，捧杯流淚說：「我自知罪不容赦，陛下既然不以死罪處置我，我願意做一名大梁的平民，讓我看看太平盛世。我不敢飲這杯酒。」

趙匡胤哈哈大笑，說：「我把自己的一顆赤誠之心放到別人的胸膛裡，怎麼會這樣做呢？」立即拿過劉鋹的酒杯，一飲而盡，另外倒了一杯酒賜給他。—— 事見《宋史．太祖本紀》

評註：不僅是南漢後主劉鋹，像後蜀主孟昶、南唐後主李煜、吳越的錢俶等各國舊君，都受到了趙匡胤的優待。

對各國舊臣，他也大都優容對待，如後周的范質、楊徽之，南唐的徐鉉等，其中楊徽之、徐鉉還曾是他的對頭。宋太祖的博大胸懷、恢弘氣度非一般人能比。（未完待續）

（轉自明慧網）

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