

二. 寓言選(下)

(丁) 葉公好龍¹



課文 (Text)

葉公子高好龍，² 鉤以寫龍，³ 鑿以寫龍，⁴ 屋室雕文以寫龍，⁵ 於是天龍聞而下之，⁶ 窺頭於牖，⁷ 施尾於堂。⁸ 葉公見之，棄而還走，⁹ 失其魂魄，¹⁰ 五色無主。¹¹ 是葉公非好龍也，好夫似龍而非龍者也。¹²

《新序·雜事第五》¹³

註釋 (Annotations)

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| 1. 葉 | Shè | name of a small state during the Zhou Dynasty. |
| 公 | gōng | duke; ruler of a state. |
| 2. 子高 | Zǐgāo | name of the Duke of She. |
| 3. 鉤 | gōu | hook; buckle. |
| 寫 | xiě | to draw; to imitate. |
| 4. 鑿 | záo (zuò) | chisel; here probably used as a loan word for 爵 (jué), a wine vessel. |
| 5. 室 | shì | room. |
| 雕 | diāo | to carve. |
| 文 | wén | to decorate. |
| 6. 於是 | yú shì | at this point; thereupon. |
| 天龍 | tiān lóng | the dragon in Heaven. |
| 聞 | wén | to hear. |
| 下 | xià | to come down. (A verb.) 下之 is the same as 下於之, meaning "descend upon him". |

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| 7. 窺 | kuī | to peep. |
| 牖 | yǒu | window. |
| 8. 施 | yì | to drag; to extend. |
| 尾 | wěi | tail. |
| 堂 | táng | hall. |
| 9. 棄 | qì | to desert. |
| 還 | huán | to turn back. |
| 走 | zǒu | to run; here, it means "to run away". |
| 10. 魂魄 | hún pò | soul and spirit. (Chinese folklore has it that each person has three 魂 and seven 魄.) |
| 11. 五色 | wǔ sè | five (i.e., various) colors; here, referring to the full facial complexion. |
| 五色無主 | wǔ sè wú zhǔ | to lose color; frightened. |
| 12. 夫 | fú | this; that. |
| 似 | sì | to appear similar to. |
| 13. 新序 | Xīnxù | a work containing historical anecdotes compiled by Liú Xiàng 劉向 (79–8 B.C.) of the Western Han. |
| 雜事 | Zá shì | "A Miscellany". Title of the first five chapters in the <i>Xinxu</i> . |
| 第五 | dì wǔ | (chapter) number five. |

文法闡釋 (Grammar Notes)

I. 鉤以寫龍, etc.

This sentence and the two immediately following it share the same syntactic structure. 以 functions here as a co-verb (“preposition”), with the basic meaning of “using”, and can, therefore, be translated as “with ” or “by”. Its implied object is the noun before it. This change in word order puts emphasis on that noun, making it almost a separate clause. The author repeated the same pattern three times for intensification, to the effect of: “With everything and on all things he had, he drew dragons”. The three sentences can be translated into Modern Chinese as: 鉤也拿來寫龍；鑿也拿來寫龍；屋室雕文也拿來寫龍。

II. 是葉公非好龍也，好夫似龍而非龍者也。

This is syntactically a complex equational sentence with two clauses as predicates. The subject is 是 “this”, referring to the moral of the story, and an equational sentence of this type often implies “This means that ...”, or “This shows that ...”. The predicative clauses are “equational sentences” too, both with an implied subject (i.e., “it”). The first clause is marked by the negative particle for equational sentences 非, and means, therefore: “It is not (true) that the Duke of She is fond of dragons”. The second clause is affirmative, meaning: “It is rather that he is fond of those things which look like dragons but are not really dragons”. Note that the nominalizer 者 covers the verb phrase 似龍而非龍, and the nominalized phrase serves as the object of the verb 好. (When the implied subject of a negative equational sentence is the “it”, the subject of the predicative clause is always moved to the front of the negative particle 非.)