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A Translation of Verse 9 Chapter 6 (Yongye 雍也 6:9)

of the *Analects of Confucius* 論語 and Its Selected Annotations

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Date: 14 October 2020

Word count: 1298

1. Original text and translation of verse 6:9 of the *Analects of Confucius*

1.1 Original text

季氏使閔子騫為費宰。閔子騫曰：「善為我辭焉。如有復我者，則吾必在汶上矣。」

1.2 Translation

Ji Shi, the ruling Minister of the state of Lu, appointed Min Ziqian as the governor of 費 city. Min Ziqian said to the messenger who came to appoint him, please refuse for me properly. If they invite me again, I will flee go to the north of river Wen.

2. Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in *Lunyu*

***jiangyao* 論語講要**

2.1 Original annotation – Part A

費，古注讀密，然山東當地人皆讀費之本音。孔安國注：「費，季氏邑。季氏不臣，而其邑宰數叛，聞閔子騫賢，故欲用之。閔子不欲為季氏宰，語使者曰，善為我作辭說，令不復召我也。復我者，重來召我也。去之汶水上，欲北入齊也。」

2.2 Translation of Part A

The Chinese character 费 bi, the ancient annotation pronunciation was mi, however, people living in Shandong all read the original sound of bi. Kong Anguo annotated that 费 bi City is Ji Shi's private fief. Ji Shi has a heart of disloyalty, so the governor of 费 city betray him several times. He heard that Min Ziqian was an exemplary man of talent and virtue, so Ji Shi wanted to appoint him. Min Ziqian didn't want to be Ji Shi's governor, he said to the messenger who came to invite him, please refuse me properly and let Ji Shi not send another messenger to appoint me. 復我者 means invite him again. 汶 means the river Wen means that he may go north of river wen which is the place of the state of Qi.

2.3 Original annotation – Part B

孔子為魯司寇時，閔子騫曾為費宰，孔子辭去，閔子騫亦辭去。後以三家不聽魯君之命，而費邑之宰亦叛季氏，是以季氏使閔子騫為費宰。然閔子不願遂季氏之私，故辭之，且堅告使者，如再來召，則吾必不在家，而在汶河之上矣。汶河東北是齊國，在汶上，意謂避至齊國也。儒者去就，於此可見其概焉。

2.4 Translation of Part B

When Confucius was the Sikou which is chief in charge of justice and picketing in the central government of the state of Lu, Min Ziqian was the governor of 费 city. When Confucius resigned, Min Ziqian also resigned. Since then, Meng sun, Shu sun and Ji sun, the three ruling nobles of the state of Lu, no longer obey the orders of the emperor of the state of Lu, the 费 City managed by Ji Shi also betrayed Ji Shi, so Ji Shi wants to appoint Min Ziqian as the governor of 费 City. But Min Ziqian was unwilling to satisfy Ji Shi's selfishness, so he refused to take office. And he firmly told the messenger that if he appointed me again, I

would not be at home. I would appear in the east of river Wen, which is the state of Qi. What this means is to escape to the state of Qi. how the confucian scholar chose, it can be seen from here.

3. Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in *Sishu*

zhangjuzhu 四書章句集注

3.1 Original annotation – Part A

閔子騫，孔子弟子，名損，費，季氏邑。汶，水名，在在濟南魯北竟上。閔子不欲臣季氏，令使者善為己辭。言若再來召我，則當去之齊。程子曰：「仲尼之門，能不仕大夫之家者，閔子、曾子數人而已。」

3.2 Translation of Part A

Min Ziqian's name is Sun who is a disciple of Confucius. bi is Ji Shi's fief. Wen is the name of a river. In Jinan Lubei , Min Ziqian didn't want to be Ji Shi's minister, so he asked the messenger to properly help him refuse. If you appoint me once again, I will hide in the state of Qi. Cheng Zi said: among the disciples of Confucius, only Min Ziqian and Zeng Zi are students who can not work for their ministers of the state of Lu.

3.3 Original annotation – Part B

謝氏曰：「學者能少知內外之分，皆可以樂道而忘人之勢。況閔子得聖人為之依歸，彼其視季氏不義之富貴，不啻犬彘。又從而臣之，豈其心哉？在聖人則有不然者，蓋居亂邦、見惡人，在聖人則可；自聖人以下，剛則必取禍，柔則必取辱。閔子豈不能

早見而豫待之乎？如由也不得其死，求也為季氏附益，夫豈本心哉？蓋即無先見之知，又無克亂之才故也。然則閔子其賢乎？」

3.4 Translation of Part B

Xieshi said, 'if someone learn from sage can forget themselves and external things, they get bliss from dao (道) and will not be swayed by power. Min Ziqian was taught by the sage, so he regarded that wealth Ji Shi got in an improper way was like pigs and dogs. Therefore, it is not his wish to work for Ji Shi. When sage faced this situation, sometimes it is different. Sage can live in dangerous countries and get along with bad people. But to the ordinary people, getting along with them with a tough attitude will lead to disaster, and getting along with them with a soft attitude will lead to humiliation. Min Ziqian couldn't have predicted earlier. It's just like Zilu died in disaster and ran Qiu increased Ji Shi's wealth. Is this their original intention? This is because they have no foresight and no ability to solve problems. Is min Ziqian really talented?

4. Commentary

The Ji Shi in the text refers to Ji Huanzi. Confucius was the ruling Minister of the state of Lu when he was the Da Si Kou of the state of Lu from the age of 51 to 55. Ji Shi power and ambition were very great. He offered sacrifices to Mount Tai and violated the etiquette that ministers should abide by. Min Ziqian is a very excellent student of Confucius. His moral knowledge is very high. The most important thing is that he is very filial. Min Ziqian's mother died when he was very young. In order to take better care of him, his dad got him a

stepmother. Soon after, his stepmother gave birth to two children. Stepmother is eccentric and very kind to her children. She lets him do all the dirty and tiring work alone. She doesn't let him eat enough and wear enough clothes. In winter, she lets him wear clothes made of reed flowers, which can't resist the cold. Later, his father found out that his stepmother abused Min Ziqian. He wanted to drive away his stepmother. Min Ziqian knelt down in front of his father and begged. He said that it was some thing for me to suffer a little while my stepmother was there. If the stepmother leaves, we three have no mother's care. His parents were moved by him. There is an old Chinese saying that a man who is filial to his parents will be loyal to his country. Because parents are the people who are most kind to us. If they don't love those who are kind to us, how can they love the country and the people. Min Ziqian is filial to his parents. He will be loyal to the country. How can he help Ji Huanzi do things that betray the country? How can he help Ji Huanzi meet his personal desires. It is undeniable that sage handle things more smoothly than ordinary people. They will choose the most effective way. They will not put themselves at a disadvantage. Although Min Ziqian and Zilu are not as good as sage, they are also examples worthy of imitation and imitation by ordinary people. We should have a long-term goal and strive to be like sages.