



十五.《韓非子·說林上》：
巧詐不如拙誠¹



課文 (Text)

樂羊為魏將而攻中山，² 其子在中山，中山之君烹其子而遺之羹，³ 樂羊坐於幕下而啜之，⁴ 盡一杯，⁵ 文侯謂堵師贊曰：⁶ 「樂羊以我故而食其子之肉。」⁷ 答曰：「其子而食之，且誰不食？」樂羊罷中山，⁸ 文侯賞其功而疑其心。⁹

註釋 (Annotations)

1. 韓非子 Hán Fēizǐ a book written by Hán Fēi 韓非, the most famous thinker of the so-called Fǎ Jiā 法家, or Legalist School, during the Warring States period.
- 說林 Shuōlín literally, "forest of sayings"; here, a chapter title.
- 巧 qiǎo cunning; clever.
- 詐 zhà trickery.
- 拙 zhuó clumsy.
- 誠 chéng honesty.
- 巧詐不如拙誠 qiǎo zhà bù rú zhuó chéng cunning trickery is not as good as clumsy honesty.
2. 樂羊 Yuè Yáng name of a person.
- 將 jiàng a general; a commander.
- 中山 Zhōngshān a small state of the Warring States period.
3. 烹 pēng to boil.

遺	wèi	to present. (Note that when it means “to present”, 遺 should be pronounced wèi, otherwise, yí.)
羹	gēng	broth with meat.
4. 幕	mù	top of tent; canopy.
啜	chuò	to drink; to sip.
5. 盡	jìn	to finish.
6. 文侯	Wénhóu	Marquis Wen, ruler of the state of Wei.
堵師贊	Dǔ Shīzàn	name of a person.
7. 故	gù	reason; sake. (A noun.)
8. 罷	bà	to end; to terminate.
罷中山	bà Zhōngshān	ended and returned from the Zhongshan campaign.
9. 賞	shǎng	to reward.
功	gōng	achievement; accomplishment.
疑	yí	to suspect.

文法闡釋 (Grammar Note)

其子而食之，且誰不食？

The conjunction 而 reveals that 其子 must be the predicate of a clause [“(it is) his son”] and 食之 is the predicate of another clause [“(someone) ate him”]. Together they form the conditional portion of this conditional sentence. So this portion can be translated as: “If he ate it even when it was his own son (’s flesh)”. Since the main clause 且誰不食 includes the adverb 且 “further” it becomes even more natural to omit the conjunction 則. Note that 誰 is the object of the verb 食. It precedes the verb, because it is an interrogative. So the clause means: “then whom would he not eat?”

課文—續 (Text — Continued)

孟孫獵得麇，¹⁰ 使秦西巴持之歸，¹¹ 其母隨之而啼，¹² 秦西巴弗忍而與之，¹³ 孟孫歸，至而求麇，答曰：「余弗忍而與其母。」大怒，¹⁴ 逐之，¹⁵ 居三月，復召以為其子傅，¹⁶ 其御曰：¹⁷「曩將罪之，¹⁸ 今召以為子傅，何也？」¹⁹」孟孫曰：「夫不忍麇，又且忍吾子乎？」

故曰：「巧詐不如拙誠。」樂羊以有功見疑，²⁰ 秦西巴以有罪益信。²¹

註釋 (Annotations)

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| 10. 孟孫 | Mèngsūn | a lord of the Lu state. |
| 獵 | liè | to hunt. |
| 麇 | ní | fawn. |
| 11. 秦西巴 | Qín Xībā | name of a person. |
| 12. 啼 | tí | to cry. |
| 13. 忍 | rěn | to bear; to endure. |
| 與 | yǔ | to give; to bestow. |
| 14. 怒 | nù | to be angry. |
| 15. 逐 | zhú | to expel; to chase away. |
| 16. 傅 | fù | tutor. |
| 17. 御 | yù | driver. |

18. 曩 nǎng in the past; formerly.
 罪 zuì to punish.
19. 何也 hé yě what is the reason; why?
20. 見疑 jiàn yí to be suspected. (See 文法闡釋 III in Lesson 12.)
21. 信 xìn to trust; to be trusted.



文法闡釋 (Grammar Note)

夫不忍麋，又且忍吾子乎？

As an initial modal particle to sentences, 夫 can perhaps be rendered as “Now (you listen).” The verb 忍 means “to bear (something hard or terrible)”. After both its occurrences in this sentence, another verb (“to hurt”) is implied, and the negative form 不忍 also acquires the new sense of “cannot bear”. So the sentence can be translated as: “Now, if he cannot even bear to hurt a fawn, can he then bear to hurt my son?” 又 is an adverb of intensification, implying something more than just hurting a fawn (i.e., “hurting my son”). As in the clause 且誰不食 discussed earlier on, the force of the adverb 且 can be shown in an English translation by the inclusion of “even” in the conditional clause. These two adverbs make the overt inclusion of the conjunction 則 unnecessary.