

九.《禮記》選

(甲) 有子之言似夫子¹



課文 (Text)

有子問於曾子曰：²「問喪於夫子乎？」³曰：「聞之矣。『喪欲速貧，⁴死欲速朽。⁵』」有子曰：「是非君子之言也。」曾子曰：「參也聞諸夫子也。」⁶有子又曰：「是非君子之言也。」曾子曰：「參也與子游聞之。」有子曰：「然。然則夫子有為言之也。」⁷

曾子以斯言告於子游。⁸子游曰：「甚哉，⁹有子之言似夫子也！昔者夫子居於宋，見桓司馬自為石槨。¹⁰三年而不成。夫子曰：『若是其靡也！¹¹死不如速朽之愈也。¹²』死之欲速朽，為桓司馬言之也。南宮敬叔反，¹³必載寶而朝。¹⁴夫子曰：『若是其貨也，¹⁵喪不如速貧之愈也。』喪之欲速貧，為敬叔言之也。」

〈檀弓上〉¹⁶

註釋 (Annotations)

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| 1. 有子 | Yǒuzǐ | a disciple of Confucius. 子 is an honorific form of address. |
| 2. 曾子 | Zēngzǐ | a disciple of Confucius. (See Lesson 3, p. 45.) |
| 3. 喪 | sàng | to lose; here, meaning "to leave one's office". |
| 4. 速 | sù | quick; quickly. |
| 貧 | pín | poor. |
| 5. 朽 | xiǔ | to rot; to decompose. |

6. 參 Shēn the formal name of 曾子.
7. 然則 rán zé if so, then
8. 斯 sī this. (A demonstrative pronoun.)
9. 甚 shèn excessive; extreme.
10. 桓 Huán a family name.
- 司馬 sī mǎ an official title.
- 自 zì for oneself. (An adverb.)
- 槨 guǒ outer coffin.
11. 若是 ruò shì like this.
- 靡 mǐ extravagant; wasteful.
12. 愈 yù better.
13. 南宮敬叔 Nángōng Jìngshū a lord of the Lu state.
- 反 fǎn to return. (南宮敬叔 once lost his office and left the state, but returned later. 反 was later replaced by 返.)
14. 載 zài to carry in a vehicle.
- 寶 bǎo treasure.
- 朝 cháo to have an audience with the prince.
- 載寶而朝 zài bǎo ér cháo to go to court with treasures (as bribes in order to get his post back).
15. 貨 huò to bribe; to present gifts.
16. 檀弓 Tán Gōng name of a person. Here, it functions as a chapter title from the *Lǐjì* 《禮記》 (*Book of Rites*), one of the classics of the Confucian canon.

文法闡釋 (Grammar Notes)

I. 然則夫子有為言之也

The two words 然 and 則 often appear together as a compound in Modern Chinese, but they actually serve separate functions in Classical Chinese. 則 indicates the sentence is conditional, and 然, a verb, represents the conditional clause. Together they mean “If it is so, then ...” 有, the verb in the main clause, implies an object (“something”; see 文法闡釋 I in Lesson 7, p. 78) which in turn serves as the understood object of the co-verb 為 in the verb phrase 為言之. So the whole sentence means: “If (it is) so, then the Master has (a reason) therewith to say that”.

II. 甚哉，有子之言似夫子也！

This is an inverted sentence, with its predicate 甚哉 put before its subject which is a complex clause. The possessive particle 之 turns 有子言 into a nominal [“(the way) Youzi talks”] which then serves as the subject of the clause with 似 as its verb. The sentence can, therefore, be rendered as, “It is extraordinary indeed, how Youzi talks just like the Master!”

III. 若是其靡也！死不如速朽之愈也。

We actually have here two independent sentences, which are, however, closely related semantically. The first is an inverted sentence with its predicate 若是 appearing before its subject 其靡 “It’s like that, his extravagance!” (Note that 若 is here a verb, just like 如 in the following sentence, not a conjunction for conditional clauses.) Then, with the first sentence as its implied conditional clause, the second sentence becomes the conclusive clause of a conditional sentence, “(If it is to be like that, then) when one dies, it is not as good as decomposing quickly”. Note that 死 is not the subject of the verb 如, but a point of reference (“in death” or “when one dies”). Note also that, in the “A 不如 B” type of comparative sentences, 之愈 is mostly omitted, rather than spoken out as it is here.