

The cultural environment of my new home in Sichuan was vastly different from that in Zhejiang. My father was a very learned person. He had a doctor of law degree from the University of Paris. He had taught many universities in China. He had been chairman of department of law in the National Central University. He was a member of the editorial board of the Word Source Dictionary 辞源, and editor-in-chief of quite a few dictionaries before he went to France for study. My two oldest brothers were already college students. Although there were not many books around because of the war, it was much plenty more than we had in Sheng Xian. Besides, most civil servants in the Ministry of Justice were educated people.

I finally got the chance to read “Romance of The Three Kingdoms”, and then “Water Margin”, “Journey to The West”, and great many martial arts novels. I had also read modern literary works like BaJin’s “Family” and some foreign translations like Lamartine’s “Graziella” and Thomas Hardy’s “Tess of d’Urbervilles”.

My father had to attend cabinet meeting every Tuesday in Chungking. He usually went there Monday afternoon and came back home Tuesday afternoon the next week. There were almost no social activities for my father in this remote village. When he was home, he gave me lessons on Chinese classics every evening, on poetry and on select passages from Confucius’ “Analects” (Lun Yu 论语).

The essence of Confucius’ teaching, I think, can be distilled by the following passages:

“The doctrine of our master is to be TRUE to the principle of nature, and the BENEVOLENT exercise of them to others. This and nothing more.” 夫子之道，忠恕而已矣。

What is benevolence?

“Is ‘benevolence’ such a word? Do not do to others what you would not want them to do to you.” 其恕乎？己所不欲，勿施于人。

我在四川新家的文化氛围跟浙江的大不相同。我父亲是位饱学之士，他是巴黎大学的法学博士，在中国好些大学教过书，并担任过国立中央大学法学系主任。他去法国留学前，就已经是辞源的编辑之一，以及好几部字典的主编。我的大哥二哥那时已经读大学了。尽管家中因战争而书籍很少，但比起嵊县来那是多得多了。此外，司法行政部的大多数职员都是受过教育的。

我终于读到了《三国演义》、接着是《水浒》、《西游记》，和很多其它武侠小说。我也读到了现代文学作品如巴金的《家》，和一些翻译作品如拉马丁的《格莱齐拉》和托马斯·哈代的《黛丝姑娘》。

我父亲每周二要去重庆参加行政院会议，他通常周一下午去，然后第二周的周二下午回家。在这个偏远的小村子，他基本上没有什么社交活动，他在家的时候，就每晚给我讲国学经典，有古诗并摘选孔子《论语》里的章句。

孔子教诲中的核心，我觉得可以从以下段落中体会：

“夫子之道，忠恕而已矣。”

什么是“恕”？

“其恕乎？己所不欲，勿施于人。”