

On Zhuangzi's Emotion and Emotionless

Jing Guo

Beijing University of Chemical Technology

The character of emotion in Chinese is “情”(Qing). But “qing” has many meanings, such as emotion, the nature and the true state etc. So when Zhuangzi talked about the emotion, he also related the emotion to the nature and the true state. The emotion in Zhuangzi has at least three level of meanings, which are the biased emotion, the true emotion and the resonant emotion. The biased emotion comes from the desire of the ego. The true emotion is the true nature of the self. The origin of the resonant emotion is the resonance between the Dao, Tian, world and the responsive me. Zhuangzi called us to be transformed from the biased emotion to the true emotion and to the resonant emotion. The postfix “less” of the “emotionless” in Zhuangzi just means the transformation of the emotion. So the “emotionless” does not mean no emotion. Actually the postfix “less” more likes a verb, it also has three level of meanings. The first means to get rid of the biased emotion by forgetting the desire of the ego. The second means to keep in the true state of emotion by maintaining the nature of the true self. The third means to achieve the resonant emotion by responding to the “qing” of Dao, the “qing” of Tian and the “qing” of world. An insight into Zhuangzi's emotion and emotionless helps us to perfect the subjectivity and also unify the truth, good and beauty. The transformation of the three level of emotions shows the process to perfect the subjectivity from the ego, to the true self and to the responsive me. And the perfection of subjectivity not only shows the true state of Dao, Tian, world and self, but also shows the good is to respond to the true state. The harmony between the truth and good shows the beauty. These are the great contribution of Zhuangzi's philosophy in the present era.

Key words: Zhuangzi; emotion; emotionless; qing