

## The Modern Mission of The traditional Confucian 'Emotion-reason Structure'

Wang Qingyuan

Center for Study of Ethics, Hebei University of Economics & Business

There are obvious differences between Chinese and western theories of moral philosophy. Western traditional virtue pay more attention to seeking rational spirit, The Chinese traditional philosophy is mainly embodied in the spirit of benevolence of traditional Confucian. It was use in the individual emotion and carried forward it all the time.

As we know The foundation of the traditional Confucian ethics is emotion. Confucianism focuses on the exploration of human nature, cultivating people's lofty and excellence. Confucian ethics is generally called human nature philosophy, which is the fundamental spirit of it, and it is different from the experience of knowledge who comes from practice and rational reasoning, but from the ideological understanding and intuition of oneself. And this insight and intuition, is not caused by speculative reason and purification, but the emotional reflection and insight resorting from life .We can prove it in many literatures. From Confucius's 'Ritual' to 'filial piety(Xiao) 'of Meng Zi, it always contains emotional factors. Emotion, as a person's inner experience formed in the repeated practice of life, has a certain psychological tendency and relative stabilization. Traditional Confucianism holds that emotion is prior to reason.

it was said, 'the nature comes from life, the life falls from heaven. Tao begins with emotion, emotion is born by nature. '(Note: "Guodian", Heritage Press 1998 edition, page 179th.)Emotion is the existence of human being. Man is a sentient being who have the emtion. To understand the emotion of the Chinese people, it should be understood from the ontological point of view. Emotion is a state of human existence, the meaning and value of human beings must start from the emotion. After the emotion there will be rational generation. Therefore, the logical starting point of 'emotion-reason' structure of traditional Confucianism is emotion, rather than dichotomy for the structure. Therefore, the logical structure of the traditional Confucianism, should be based on emotion and practiced in reason. We so-called 'emotion-

reason' structure' is just a way of expression for that, it is a discourse system in accordance with the western philosophy way of expression.

'emotion-reason' structure is a kind of attitude and emotion which is related to the life, and it is a kind of perceptual structure which contains emotion and desire, and is overlapped with reason. It is not only by rational to control, guiding passion, just as Aristotle said in the Nicomachean Ethics of that way, but more important is the so-called 'emotion-reason' structure, that means the rational, intellectual and emotional mingled with, penetrated and unite together. The structure of the traditional Confucianism shows the subjectivity and the spirit of life. By this way of thinking it formed the ethics of human nature.

The traditional Confucian culture structure is always rooted in the life, the meaning of life is self-confirmation, We should transfer life into living, transforming from pure existence to meaningful existence, then we can find the door of happiness. In a broader sense, the meaning of each of us is related to the meaning of the lives of others, and each of us is destined to acknowledge others, otherwise we have no meaning. Only in 'reason and emotion' structure, we can make emotion in modern people's life is what it is, restore and correct themselves freely.