

The Basic Spirit of the Thought about Emotion of Confucianism and Its Modern Transformation

Wang Tianmin

(Beijing Normal University, Beijing, 100875, China)

Abstract: the concept of “emotion” in Confucianism has two basic meanings, one is the “fact” about the relation between the people and things, between the people and events, between the people and people, another is the “mood”, which is the individual sentiments and attitude, just like “delight, anger, sad, joy, love, desire, blame”. The “fact” is the root of the code of conduct containing the emotional color, is the “origin” field of sentiments and attitude: “delight, anger, sad, joy, love, desire, blame”. From the perspective of the “fact”, the core of the thought about emotion of Confucianism is the feeling of “peace”. Based on the existence of the “fact”, which is the basic standpoint about the theory of thought about emotion of Confucianism, in this point, “dao”, “nature”, and “fate” are integrated, “dao begins with emotion” and “nature begins with emotion” are interlinked, both of them justify the way of “spiritual phenomenon” of emotion. In contrast, the abstract “viewpoint of humanity” make the thought about emotion of Confucianism tied to the abstract ideological thought that is “emotion begins with nature”, and thus falls off the “truth” of the existence and make it weak and vain. In the modern times society appearing the trend of the “history” becoming “world” history, the thought about emotion of Confucianism needs to use “process thought” facing the “world”, use the consciousness of cascaded order building “Community of Destiny”, only in this way, can open a new good artistic conception and the peace of love.

Keywords: Confucianism; Emotion; Fact; Code of conduct; Mood; Transformation