

Calligraphy  
Meets  
Philosophy

*Talk 3*

尚語

第三話

KS Vincent POON (潘君尚)



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Honinbo Doetsu's Go Board  
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三井記念美術館  
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In Loving Memory of My Beloved Mother

**Pui Luen Nora TSANG**(曾佩鑾)

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	7
<b>Bai Juyi, <i>A Poem for the Swallows</i> (白居易《燕詩》)</b>	
Calligraphy	11
Translation	12
Remarks	15
Footnotes	15
<b>Liu Yuxi, <i>Lyrics to the Folk Song The Bamboo Branches (VII)</i> (劉禹錫《竹枝詞》，其七)</b>	
Calligraphy	19
Translation	20
Remarks	20
Footnotes	21
<b>A Phrase From <i>Platform Sutra</i> (《六祖壇經》句)</b>	
Calligraphy	25
Translation	26
Remarks	26
Footnotes	27
<b>Pang Yun, <i>A Zen Phrase</i> (龐蘊禪句)</b>	
Calligraphy	31
Translation	32
Remarks	32
Footnotes	33

**Li Qingzhao, A Quatrain Written in a Summer**  
( 李清照《夏日絕句》 )

Calligraphy	37
Translation	38
Remarks	38
Footnotes	39

**A Phrase From *Analects* – Xue Er (《論語·學而》句)**

Calligraphy	43
Translation	44
Remarks	44
Footnotes	46

**Sima Guang, *The Family Precepts of Sima Guang***  
( 司馬光《司馬溫公家訓》 )

Calligraphy	51
Translation	52
Remarks	53
Footnotes	54

**A Phrase From *A Narrative on Calligraphy* (《書譜》句)**

Calligraphy	59
Translation	60
Remarks	60
Footnotes	61

**A Phrase From *New Book of Tang* – *Comments on the Biography of Yan Zhenqing* (《新唐書·顏真卿傳贊》句)**

Calligraphy	65
Translation	66
Remarks	66
Footnotes	67

**A Phrase From *Book of Rites* – *Conveyance of Rites***  
(《禮記•禮運》句)

Calligraphy	71
Translation	72
Remarks	72
Footnotes	73

**Sun Yat-sen, *The Will of the Father of the Nation***  
(孫逸仙《國父遺囑》)

Calligraphy	77
Translation	78
Remarks	79
Footnotes	79

**A Model of *Yi Ying Stele* (臨《乙瑛碑》)**

Calligraphy	83
Remarks	94
Footnotes	94

## **Calligraphy Meets Philosophy - Talk 3**

### **Introduction**

(I)

The *Calligraphy Meets Philosophy* series aims to foster a correct and deeper understanding of traditional Chinese calligraphy and philosophy. It does so by having calligraphies of selected classical texts accompanied by line-by-line translations and annotated remarks.

(II)

*Talk 3* focuses on outlining some important traditional Chinese concepts like "Filial Piety (孝)", "Wisdom (智)", "Tacit Deeds of Grace (陰德)", and "Cultivating One's Foundations (務本)", etc... Selected texts include those by Bai Juyi (白居易, 772-846 AD), Liu Yuxi (劉禹錫, 772-842 AD), Li Qingzhao (李清照, 1084-1151 AD), Sima Guang (司馬光, 1019-1086 AD), Sun Guoting (孫過庭, 648-703 AD), and Sun Yat-Sen (孫逸仙, 1866-1925); as well, phrases from the canonical *Analects* (《論語》), *Book of Rites* (《禮記》), and *Platform Sutra* (《六祖壇經》) are also included. The book concludes with KS Vincent Poon's modelling and remarks on the Chinese calligraphy masterpiece *Yi Ying Stele* (《乙瑛碑》).

(III)

Here, I would like to thank my father, Dr Kwok Kin POON (潘國鍵博士), for his enduring assistance. His invaluable insight on correctly interpreting various old texts has contributed significantly to my translations. Further, his continuing encouragement has always been the source of my passion. Perhaps this is a prime example of "passing on (傳承) the family's profession and reputation (家業)", a custom that the Japanese hold so dearly. And that is exactly why Japan can still retain its traditional culture and values.

KS Vincent Poon  
August 2024, Toronto



**Bai Juyi**  
***A Poem for the Swallows***

白居易  
《燕詩》

## Calligraphy

Calligrapher (書者): KS Vincent Poon (潘君尚)

Content (內容): *A Poem for the Swallows*, a poem by Bai Juyi (白居易《燕詩》)

Style (字體): Standard Script (楷書)

Caption (款識): 白居易燕詩丁酉冬潘君尚 (Bai Juyi *A Poem for the Swallows*, during winter in the year of the Dingyou, Kwan Sheung Vincent Poon)

Seal Inscription (鈐印): 君尚 (朱文) (Kwan Sheung Vincent, red characters), 潘氏 (白文) (The Surname of Poon, white characters)

Medium (材料): Ink on Xuan paper (紙墨水本)

Size (尺寸): 75 X 35cm

Year (年份): 2017

梁上有雙燕，翩翩雄與雌。  
銜泥兩椽間，一巢生四兒。  
四兒日夜長，索食聲孜孜。  
青蟲不易捕，黃口無飽期。  
喙爪雖欲敝，心力不知疲。  
須臾十來往，猶恐巢中飢。  
辛勤三十日，母瘦雛漸肥。  
哺哺教言語，一一刷毛衣。  
一旦羽翼長，引上庭樹枝。  
舉翅不回顧，隨風四散飛。  
雌雄空中鳴，聲盡呼不歸。  
卻入空巢裏，啁啾終夜悲。  
燕燕爾勿悲，爾當反自思。  
思爾為雛日，高飛背母時。  
當時父母念，今日爾應知。

白居易燕詩丁酉冬潘君尚



## Translation

白居易 《燕詩》

**Bai Juyi, A Poem for the Swallows**

1. 梁上有雙燕，

Two swallows were upon a wooden beam,

2. 翩翩雄與雌。

A he and a she stood elegantly (翩翩) as a team.

3. 銜泥兩椽間，

Clays amassed by their beaks (銜泥) rested between two wooden pilings,

4. 一巢生四兒。

A nest that hatched four offspring.

5. 四兒日夜長，

The four offspring grew by the day and night,

6. 索食聲孜孜。

Demanding food endlessly as they chirp (孜孜) with all their might.

7. 青蟲不易捕，

Fresh worms were not easy to catch as prey,

8. 黃口無飽期。

And the young mouths (黃口) were not satiated any day.