

Calligraphy Meets Philosophy

Talk 2

KS Vincent POON
(潘君尚)

尚
語

第
二
話



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The SenSeis

First Edition
Aug 2023

Published by
The SenSeis 尚尚齋
Toronto
Canada
www.thesenseis.com
publishing@thesenseis.com

ISBN 978-1-989485-32-3

Cover
Tochoji Temple
東長寺
Fukuoka Japan

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In Loving Memory of My Beloved Mother

Pui Luen Nora TSANG(曾佩鑾)

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Calligraphy Meets Philosophy - Talk 2

Introduction

(I)

Content is the soul of an artwork.

Thus, catching the soul of Chinese calligraphy requires understanding the literary contents. To facilitate this, the *Calligraphy Meets Philosophy* series presents traditional Chinese calligraphy alongside line-by-line translated texts with remarks and footnotes. As such, it furthers readers' understanding of traditional Chinese thoughts through calligraphy and concise English translations.

(II)

Calligraphy Meets Philosophy – Talk 2 (《尚語•第二話》) highlights some key traditional Chinese philosophical concepts like “Nothingness (空)”, “Form (色)”, “Tranquility (靜)”, “Ease (閒)”, and “Self Enlightenment (自我覺悟)”. It does so by having calligraphies and translations of selected literary works by Cao Cao (曹操, 155-220 AD), Zhuge Liang (諸葛亮, 181-234 AD), Yen Shang (楊慎, 1488–1559 AD), Bai Juyi (白居易, 772-846 AD), Li Bai (李白, 701-762 AD), The Nun of the Wujinzhan (無盡藏比丘尼, ?-?AD), Wuzu Fayan (五祖法演, ?-1104AD), Longya Judun (龍牙居遁, 835-923 AD), and Kuiji (窺基, 632-682 AD). The concluding artwork is my calligraphy of the entire *Diamond Sutra* (《金剛般若波羅蜜經》) in small standard script (小楷), followed by a short remark.

(III)

This book could not have been published without the help of my father, Dr Kwok Kin POON (潘國鍵博士). I sincerely thank his priceless advice on my translations throughout the series. His unwavering support and tutelage have always been the chief drivers of my passion for learning and passing on traditional Chinese calligraphy and culture.

Knowledge is never pursued alone.

KS Vincent Poon
August 2023, Toronto

Cao Cao
Behold the Turquoise Sea

曹操
《觀滄海》

Calligraphy

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

Content (內容): *Behold the Turquoise Sea*, a poem by Cao Cao (曹操《觀滄海》)

Style (字體): Standard Script (楷書)

Caption (款識): 曹操步出夏門行之觀滄海壬寅潘君尚書於尚齋 (Cao Cao *Marched Out the Grand Illustrious Gate's Behold the Turquoise Sea*, year of the Renyin, Kwan Sheung Vincent Poon scribed at The Senseis)

Seal Inscription (鈐印): 君尚 (朱文) (Kwan Sheung Vincent, red characters), 潘 (白文) (Poon, white character)

Medium (材料): Ink on Xuan paper (紙墨水本)

Size (尺寸): 112 X 50cm

Year (年份): 2022

東臨碣石以觀滄海水何澹澹山
島竦峙樹木叢生百草豐茂秋風
蕭瑟洪波湧起日月之行若出其
中星漢燦爛若出其裏幸甚至哉
歌以詠志

曹操步出夏門行之觀滄海壬寅潘君尚書於尚尚齋



Translation

曹操《觀滄海》

Cao Cao, *Behold the Turquoise Sea*

1. 東臨碣石，
I approached the east and climbed Jieshi mountain (碣石)⁽¹⁾,
2. 以觀滄海。
So I could behold the turquoise sea.
3. 水何澹澹，
Waters, how wavy (澹澹) indeed,
4. 山島竦峙。
Islands stood tall amidst the waves.
5. 樹木叢生，
Trees were abundant,
6. 百草豐茂。
Turfs were luxuriant.
7. 秋風蕭瑟，
Autumn winds blew cold and bleak,
8. 洪波湧起。
Gigantic billows ascended from the sea.
9. 日月之行，
As the Sun and Moon rose and set,

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Content is the soul of an artwork.

Thus, catching the soul of Chinese calligraphy requires understanding the literary contents. To facilitate this, the *Calligraphy Meets Philosophy* series presents traditional Chinese calligraphy alongside line-by-line translated texts with remarks and footnotes.

Calligraphy Meets Philosophy – Talk 2 (《尚語·第二話》) includes calligraphies and translations of selected literary works by Cao Cao (曹操, 155-220 AD), Zhuge Liang (諸葛亮, 181-234 AD), Yen Shang (楊慎, 1488–1559 AD), Bai Juyi (白居易, 772-846 AD), Li Bai (李白, 701-762 AD), The Nun of the Wujinshan (無盡藏比丘尼, ?-?AD), Wuzu Fayan (五祖法演, ?-1104AD), Longya Judun (龍牙居遁, 835-923 AD), and Kuiji (窺基, 632-682 AD). The book concludes with the author's artwork of the entire *Diamond Sutra (《金剛般若波羅蜜經》)*, followed by a short remark.

Kwan Sheung Vincent POON (潘君尚, 1979-)

KS Vincent POON, of Nanhai descent, was born in British Hong Kong and emigrated to Canada with his family at age eight. He completed his BSc with high distinction in Biochemistry and Physics, MSc and BEd degrees, as well as a Certificate of Management at the University of Toronto. At a very young age, Vincent studied and practised traditional Chinese calligraphy and culture under the careful tutelage of his father, Dr Kwok Kin POON (潘國鍵博士). Not only has he mastered scribing the clerical, cursive, semi-cursive and standard scripts, but he is also adept at translating Chinese to English. He authored various books with his father, which include *A Narrative on Calligraphy by Sun Guoting (《英譯書譜》)*, *English Translation of Classical Chinese Calligraphy Masterpieces (《英譯法書》)*, as well as *An English Translation and the Correct Interpretation of Laozi's Tao Te Ching (《英譯並正解老子道德經》)*. Independently, he authors the *Calligraphy Meets Philosophy (《尚語》)* series.

潘君尚，原籍南海。生於英治香港，八歲隨父母移民加拿大。畢業多倫多大學 (University of Toronto)，獲生化系一級榮譽理學士、教育學士、理學碩士、商業管理文憑。自幼跟隨父親潘國鍵博士研習中國書法及中國文化，深得父親所傳。隸、草、行、楷四體兼善之外，亦擅長中英翻譯。已出版著述，計有與父親合譯之 *An English Translation and the Correct Interpretation of Laozi's Tao Te Ching (《英譯並正解老子道德經》)*、*A Narrative on Calligraphy by Sun Guoting (《英譯書譜》)*、*English Translation of Classical Chinese Calligraphy Masterpieces (《英譯法書》)*，及個人專著 *Calligraphy Meets Philosophy (《尚語》)* 系列。

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