

杏壇

"香港中文大學哲學系榮休教授勞思光先生,四十年來於港台兩地,育才無數,發表之學 術論著,一向稱重於杏壇。"

" 淡風吹至杏壇,天主教區兩所小學宣布停 課。"

兩則報道,都提到"杏壇"。"杏壇"當然不只是說植杏的園林。據《漢語大詞典》的解釋,

杏壇" 相傳為孔子聚徒授業講學 處 "。

孔子杏壇設教之說,載於《莊子 漁父》篇:"孔子遊乎淄帷之林,休坐乎杏壇之上,弟子讀書,孔子弦歌、鼓琴奏曲。"壇,澤中高處,其處多杏,謂之杏壇。相傳孔子出遊,倦了就坐在杏壇上休息,與弟子弦歌講學。後遂以"杏壇"泛指授徒講學的地方。

查壇原址在哪裏已無從稽考。今天所見的杏壇始建於宋代。明清之際學者顧炎武的《日知錄》,把後世修築杏壇的來龍去脈說得很清楚:"宋乾興間,孔子第四十五代孫孔道輔增修祖廟,移大殿於後,因以講堂舊基,甃(音"咒",用磚砌之意)石為壇,環植以杏,取杏壇之名名之耳"。金代於孔道輔增修的杏壇上建亭,由當

時著名文人党懷英篆書'杏壇"二字。今天山東曲阜孔廟大成殿前的杏壇,是在明隆慶三年(1569年)時修建的。

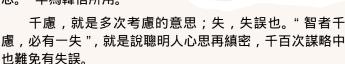
杏壇芬芳,千古流傳, 也因着萬世師表在杏壇傳道 授業的故事,"杏壇"成了教 育界的借代詞。





智者千慮,必有一失

《史記 淮陰侯列傳》記載,漢初韓信領兵攻打趙王和成安君,廣武君李左車向成安君獻敗韓信之策,但成安君以"義兵不用詐謀奇計",棄其策不用。後趙軍大敗,韓信知廣武君精於謀略,傳令漢軍要把他活捉。漢軍縛廣武君到韓信面前,韓信親解其縛,以老師之禮相待,向廣武君討教攻陷齊國和燕國之計。



自恃聰明,機關算盡,也不一定萬無一失。魯迅《且介亭雜文二集 名人和名言》:"我很自歉這回時時涉及了太炎先生。但'智者千慮,必有一失',這大約也無傷於先生的'日月之明'的。至於我的所說,可是我想,'愚者千慮,必有一得',蓋亦'懸諸日月而不刊'之論也。"論者每說魯迅雜文下筆辛辣,語言犀利,於此可見一斑。

Homer sometimes nods

Horace (65-8 BC), a Roman lyric poet whose works are masterpieces of Latin literature of the Golden Age, once wrote of Homer, 'sometimes even the noble Homer nods' (Ars Poetica).

Homer, the blind Greek bard of the 8th century BC, was the reputed author of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, the two major epics of Greek antiquity. Horace's remark, rather than an implicit criticism, suggests that accomplished as Homer was, he sometimes erred in his account of facts of the incidents he mentioned. Horace excused Homer's occasional drowsiness in view of the great length of his work.

Nobody can be at his best all the time. The phrase 'Homer sometimes nods' or 'even Homer sometimes nods' points out the fact that even the best of us are liable to make mistakes. For example: 'Scientific reason, like Homer, sometimes nods'. (T.H. Huxley)