Do You See to Believe?

There had been a time when Confucius, the great Chinese teacher in the fifth century B.C., and his students had starved for seven days and nights. Later, after much effort, one of his students, Yan Hui, got some rice. He washed the rice and cooked it on a stove. When the rice was almost ready, the heat of cooking made some charcoal ash from the ceiling dropped into the pot and stained the rice.

“Oh, no. The ash dropped in the rice. This part is ruined. Yet the rest of the rice is still edible. It would be a waste if I throw the whole pot of rice away,” sighed Yan Hui. He then decided to grabbed a handful of the stained rice and ate it.

Another student, Zi Gong, happened to pass by the kitchen and saw Yan Hui swallow some rice.

“How can Yan Hui eat before the rice is served? I must tell Confucius about Yan Hui’s wrong doing.”

Zi Gong quickly found Confucius, saying “Venerable Master. It’s time for dinner. However, I saw Yan Hui eat rice before rice is served to you.”

”Hmmm. Is that true? Let me ask Yan Hui about it,” said Confucius.

After a while, Yan Hui came to Confucius and politely asked him to have his meal. “No hurry, Yan Hui. I just had a dream. I dreamed of ancestors. Why don’t we offer the cooked rice to ancestors to show reverence?”

Yan Hui replied hurriedly, “No. No. Master. The rice cannot be offered.”

”How can that be?” asked Confucius.

Yan Hui continued, “I am so sorry. Some soot had just fallen from the ceiling to the pot and soiled the rice. It is a pity to throw the rice away, so I picked out the sooted rice and ate it."

Confucius looked at Zi Gong with a sigh, “We would have misunderstood Yan Hui if he did not have a chance to explain. Now we know it is not easy to understand a person with eyes only.”

This old story has a lesson for us. We should not judge someone by their looks only. The whole picture is more than eyes to see.

**Word Count: 363**