

Do You See to Believe?

There **was a time** when Confucius, the great Chinese teacher in the fifth Century B.C. and his students, had starved for seven days and seven 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 **from** cooking made some charcoal ash **drop** down from the ceiling into the pot. **It stained the rice.**

“Oh no! The ash dropped **into** the rice. Some part is ruined. Yet the rest of the rice is still edible. It would be a waste to throw the whole pot of rice away,” sighed Yan Hui. He decided to **grab** a handful of the stained rice and **eat** it.

Another student, Zi Gong, happened to pass by the kitchen and saw Yan Hui swallow the 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. “Venerable Master, it's time for dinner. However, I saw Yan Hui eat rice before the rice **was to be served** to you.”

“Hmm, 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 eat his meal. “No hurry, Yan Hui. I just had a dream. I dreamed of **the** ancestors. Why don't we offer the cooked rice to **the** ancestors to show our reverence?”

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

“**How can that be?**” asked Confucius.

Yan Hui continued, “I am so sorry. Some soot **fell** from the ceiling **into** the pot and soiled the rice. It **would have been** a pity to throw all the rice away, so I picked out the spoiled 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 ancient story has a lesson for us. We should not judge someone by looks only. The whole picture **takes** more than eyes to see.

Word Count: 373
