

清廉正直的范質

范質是中國五代後周和北宋初大臣，據說出生的那天晚上，他的母親夢見有人送她一支五色筆，算命先生告訴他母親說，這個小孩將來會當宰相。范質從小就很愛讀書，9歲能寫文章，13歲精通《尚書》，見聞非常廣博，也教導不少學生。宋太祖趙匡胤當了皇帝之後，很賞識他的才德，於是就任命他當宰相。

范質當了宰相以後，生活非常儉樸，從來沒有接受過各地的餽贈，根除了送禮的貪腐風氣。他的薪水和賞賜，也大多拿去救濟孤苦無依的人；他家的飯菜飲食也從不講究，都普通至極。後來范質生了重病，臨終之前告誡兒子，不要為他請求諡號^(註)，也不要為他刻碑。直到他去世之後，家中都沒有多餘的錢財。宋太祖一聽到他去世的消息，非常悲傷難過，甚至因此取消了早朝，還曾對左右的臣子說：「朕聽說范質只有居住的房屋，沒有經營產業，這才是真正的宰相啊！」



小啟示

節儉惜福，不貪圖不屬於自己的財物，這是做人做事的道理，范質的故事是我們後世很好的榜樣。

註：古代有一定地位的人去世之後，根據其生平事蹟給予的稱號。

Frugal Fan Zhi

Fan Zhi was a councilor in the later Zhou(A.D.951-960) and early Northern Song Dynasty(A.D.960-1127). It was said that on the night when he was born, his mother dreamed about being given a five-color pen. A prophet told his mother that the child would become the Grand Councilor in the future. Fan was studious since childhood. He was able to write an article when he was only nine and read the ShangShu at the age of 13. He had broad knowledge and taught many students. After Emperor Taizu(Zhao Kuang yin) of the Sung ascended the throne, he was appointed the Grand Councilor for his talents.

Fan remained modest and thrifty even after he became the Grand Councilor. He never accepted gifts and outrooted corruption. His salaries and rewards were donated to the poor and the lonely. He did not pay attention to his own food and only ate simple food at home. Later, Fan fell ill and he told his children not to build a posthumous title¹ nor a gravestone for him. There was no money left in his house until he passed away. When Emperor Taizu heard about his death, he was too grieved to hold the meeting in the morning. He told other councilors, "I've heard that Fan only possessed a house and there are no other assets. He is a real Grand Councilor!"



Moral of the Story

Be frugal and cherish what one has. Do not be greedy to things that do not belong to you, this is the truth of life. The story of Fan sets up a good example for all the posterity.

Note1: In ancient times, those who were respected would be given a title according to their chronology.