

苛政猛于虎

kē zhèng měng yú hǔ

Tyranny Is Fiercer Than a Tiger



孔子路过泰山，听见有一个妇人在墓前痛哭，就叫学生去问她说：“你的哭声好像有什么原因。”她回答说：“是的，从前我的公公被老虎吃掉，后来我的丈夫也被老虎吃掉，现在我的儿子也被老虎吃掉了。”孔子问她：“为什么不离开这个地方？”她回答说：“这里没有暴虐的统治（苛政）。”孔子回头对他的学生说：“年轻人记住，暴虐的统治比老虎更可怕（猛于虎）。”

后世用“苛政猛于虎”这句话来说明当政者不可暴虐，或者指责某处的统治者压迫人民。

Confucius was once passing by Mount Tai (泰山), when he heard a woman, who was standing in front of a grave, wailing bitterly. He sent one of his disciples to enquire the reason. "By the sound of your lamentation," he said, "you seem to be afflicted by some grievous sorrow." The woman replied, "Yes, a tiger killed and devoured my father-in-law, and then my husband suffered the same fate. Now my son has been gobbled up by another tiger." Hearing this, Confucius asked her, "Then why don't you leave this place?" The woman answered, "Because here there is no tyrannical rule." Thereupon, Confucius turned to his disciples and said, "Keep this in mind, young fellows: tyranny is fiercer than a tiger."

Later, this saying came to be used to warn rulers not to

act in a tyrannical fashion and to criticize governments
oppress their people.

注:① 泰山是中国的名山之一,在山东省。

Mount Tai is one of China's most famous mountains
situated in Shandong Province.



《诗经·邠(Bīn)风·伐柯》^①一章说：“怎样出斧柄呢？没有斧头就砍不出来。怎样娶到妻子呢？没有媒人就娶不到。”后世按这个比喻称媒人为“伐柯”，称媒人为“伐柯人”。

The stanza “Shaping an Axe Handle” in the “Songs of Bin” in the *Book of Songs* goes: “How does one shape an axe handle? It cannot be done without an axe. How does one marry a wife? It cannot be done without a matchmaker. Later, based on this metaphor, matchmaking came to be called “shaping an axe handle,” and matchmakers came to be called “axe handle shapers.”

注：①《诗经》：周代到春秋时代编成的诗集。部分为官僚和知识分子(fènzǐ)所写，部分采集自民间，本诗即采自邠(Bīn)地。邠在今陕西省旬邑(yì)县附近。

The *Book of Songs* is a collection of poems, some written by aristocratic scholars and some being folk ballads, from the Zhou Dynasty to the Spring and Autumn Period. This poem is from the region of Bin which was near the present Xunyi County in Shaanxi Province.

