

True to the Names – Voice from the
Heart of an Immigrant (4)

名符其實 – 移民心聲 (四)

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míng fú qí shí yí mín xīn shēng sì
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The White House had a tough ride for the past two weeks, so did the nation. When I see people poking fun at President Trump and his staff, on the one hand, I am glad that I am here to witness firsthand what American democracy is like. On the other hand, as Judge James Robart said, “You have to treat everyone with dignity and with respect.” I know you meant well, hoping that the White House would hear your voices and adjust accordingly for the good of the people and the nation, which made me itchy and wanting to try my hand also. I will give it a try my way. I am going to give President Trump, Vice President Pence, and some of the White House staff each a Chinese name. [Clarification: all name translations in this article are my own and were not done according to the guidelines of any government.]

There is a very suitable name for President Trump: 莊嚴, meaning “grand and serious.” I left out the ending ‘p’ for a purpose. A two-character name always stands out as more powerful and more impressive than a three-character name, although not as common. But, if President Trump insists on having the ‘p’ pronounced, then the name will become 莊嚴僕, with the last character meaning “servant”, which is not too bad either. The whole name will become “the Grand and Serious Servant”, very true to the definition of a President: the Number One Public Servant of the Nation.

Pence will be 朋實, “Friend Solid and Truthful,” which President Trump definitely needs.

Now comes Conway’s turn. Do you know that you have a very good Chinese name in store for you? We do have a very famous person named 康有為 in history.

But if you do not know this guy, he was the inspiration of 孫中山. If you still do not know this second guy, this second guy’s another name is 孫逸仙, or Dr. Sun Yet-Hsian as the Western World knows him, the founding father of the Republic of China (which later split into two parts, one is Taiwan and the other one is the People’s Republic of China.) In 康有為, the first character is the family name (in Chinese names, the family name comes first), but in this case, it has its own meaning also: healthy or healthiness. 有為 is saying “having great deeds”; it is usually used to refer to a promising young person “destined to achieving great deeds.” But if you prefer a shorter name, it will be 康為, “Healthy Deeds.” Whichever you choose, you have a great Chinese name.

I did have a tough time trying to find a good name for Spicer. Let's see, if you use the first two sounds, it will be 失敗, meaning "failure", which I am sure you will not like. But if you use the last two sounds, the name will become 白蛇, "a white snake", which I am sure you will not like either. It took me some time to come up with 史百捨, in which 史 is the family name, and 百捨 means "a Hundred Givings", in the sense emphasized by various religions such as Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam "to give or to help people in need." I will keep on trying to find a better one for you.

"Good job!" for all of you working for President Trump. I know it is tough job. In the following is a chart that shows each name in its short and the long forms, along with explanations:

English	Family Name Only* ¹	Full Name	Explanations	Short and Very Chinese
President Donald Trump	莊嚴 zhuāng yán	莊嚴渡難 zhuāng yán dù nán	渡難 is saying "save the refugees" after the Lady Buddha's famous "Saving All Forms of Lives." [觀音菩薩渡難衆生。] Also see the picture. dù nán guān yīn pú sà dù nán zhòng shēng	莊渡難 zhuāng dù nán
First Lady Melania Trump	(the same as President)	莊嚴美仁里 zhuāng yán měi rén lǐ	美仁里 is saying "neighborhood of beautiful love" from Confucius' saying in his famous book, the Morality Talk (倫語), in which he says "里仁為美", meaning, "when we talk about a neighborhood to live in, a loving neighborhood will be the best place." měi rén lǐ lún yǔ lǐ rén wéi měi	莊美仁 zhuāng měi rén
Vice President Mike Pence	朋實 péng shí	朋實邁 péng shí mài	邁 is saying "forward in strides." mài	朋實邁 péng shí mài
First Lady Karen Pence	(the same as Vice President)	朋實凱倫 péng shí kǎi lún	凱倫 is saying "triumph of the moral." kǎi lún	朋實凱 péng shí kǎi
Kellyanne Conway	康為 kāng wéi	康為理嚴 kāng wéi lǐ yán	We know 嚴 is 'serious, strict, holding to high standard;' 理 is 'reasoning.' Therefore, yán lǐ	康理嚴 kāng lǐ yán

¹ Referring to foreign heads-of-state by only their last names is very common. Guess who these people are by trying to pronounce the sounds in their names: 華盛頓, 林肯, 杜魯門, 羅斯福, 丘吉爾, 艾森豪, 甘乃迪, 詹森, 尼克森, 卡特, 雷根, 布希, 克林頓, 歐巴馬。
huā shèng dùn, lín kěn, dù lǔ mén, luō sī fú, qiū jí ěr, ài sēn háo, gān nǎi dí, zhān sēn, ní kè sēn, kǎ tè, léi gēn, bù xī, kè lín dùn, ōu bā mǎ

			lǐ yán when the two are combined and become 理嚴, it means “holding the reasoning to a high standard.”	
Sean Spencer	shǐ bǎi shě 史百捨	shǐ bǎi shě xióng 史百捨 雄	xióng A 雄 is a hero. I would simply call you 史 雄, meaning “a historic hero,” in which 史 is a family name on one hand and ‘history’ on the other hand.	shǐ xióng shǐ xióng



觀音菩薩渡難衆生 Lady Buddha Saves All Forms of Lives. [Image was downloaded from the Internet.]

shēng chén bā zì

No kidding! In the beginning when I started writing his article, I used ‘生辰八字’ as the Chinese title, which had something to do with fortune-telling by looking at when a person was born and her name, etc., which I knew nothing about. At that time, the English title was “An Alternative Astrologer.” I did not know anything about astrology either, and that was the reason I put the word ‘alternative’ in the title. While the writing was in progress, the further I went, the more I was convinced that I should change the title into ‘名符其實’ (“True to the Names”). Just for fun, In the following is an excerpt from one of the greatest Chinese Classical novels, “The Journey to the West” (西游記), relating an encounter between Lady Buddha and the Monkey King.

míng fú qí shí

xī yóu jì

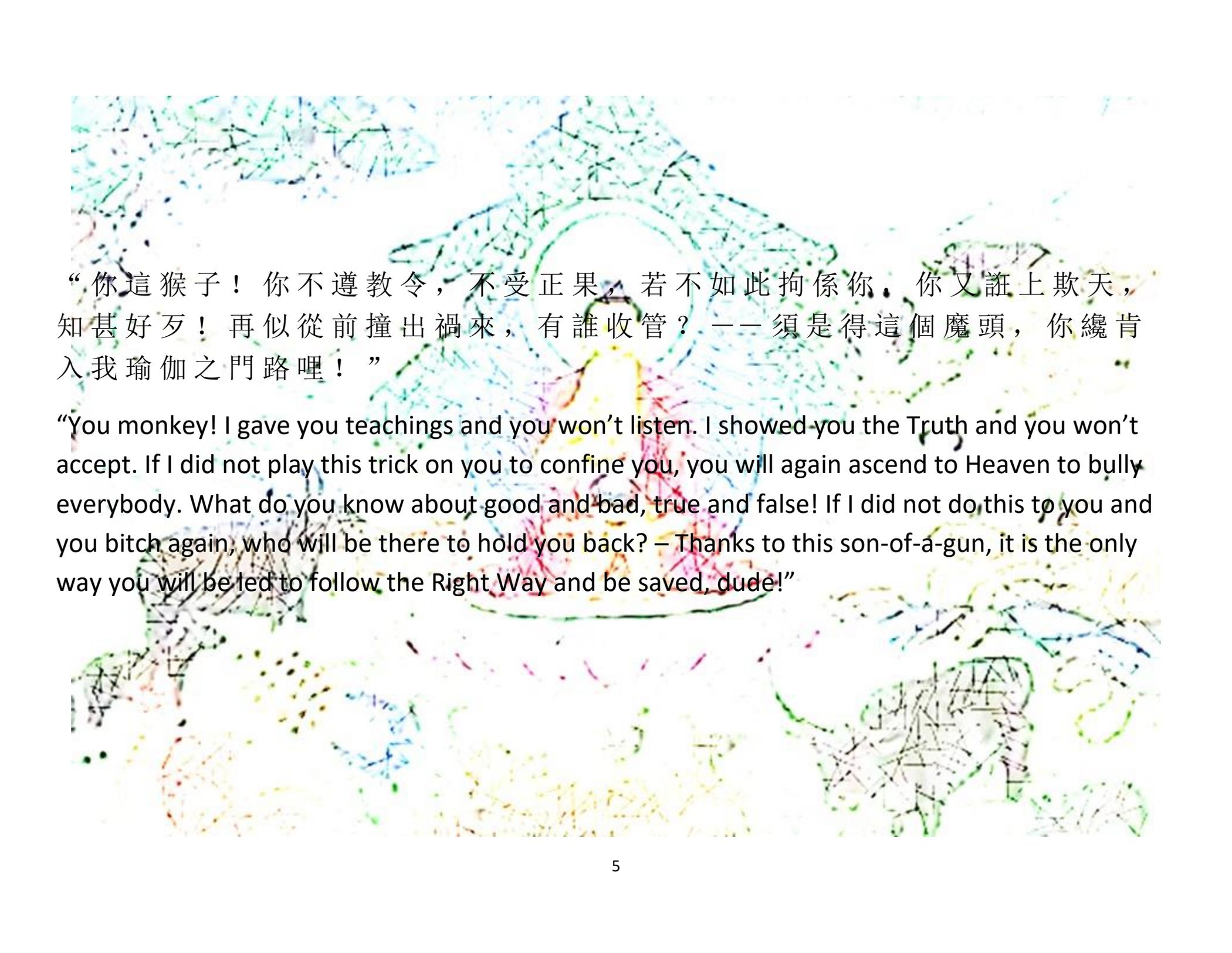
nǐ zhè hóu zǐ nǐ bù zūn jiào lìng bù shòu zhèng guǒ ruò bù rú cǐ jū xì nǐ nǐ yòu kuáng shàng
“你這猴子！你不遵教令，不受正果，若不如此拘係你，你又誑上
qī tiān zhī shèn hǎo dǎi zài sì cóng qián zhuàng chū huò lái yǒu shéi shōu guǎn xū shì dé zhè gě
欺天，知甚好歹！再似從前撞出禍來，有誰收管？——須是得這個
mó tóu nǐ cái kěn rù wǒ yú gā zhī mén lù lǐ
魔頭，你纔肯入我瑜伽之門路哩！”

“You monkey! I gave you teachings and you won’t listen. I showed you the Truth and you won’t accept. If I did not play this trick on you to confine you, you will again ascend to Heaven to bully everybody. What do you know about good and bad, true and false! If I did not do this to you and you bitch again, who will be there to hold you back? – Thanks to this son-of-a-gun, it is the only way you will be led to follow the Right Way and be saved, dude!”

jīn gū quān

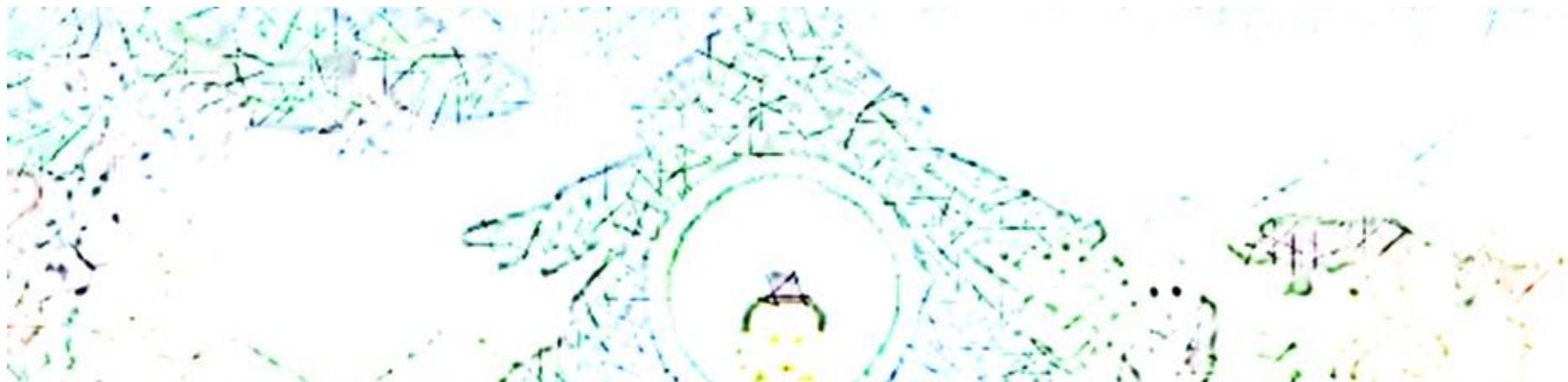
She is referring to the Golden-Hoop Headband (金箍圈) she put on the Monkey King’s head, after this naughty king of monkeys went to Heaven and made a Hell out of it, bragging with real actions about his peerless martial art skills.

Hmm! I am wondering if President Trump deserves a similar talk. Tweet! Tweet! Tweet!



“你這猴子！你不遵教令，不受正果，若不如此拘係你，你又誑上欺天，知甚好歹！再似從前撞出禍來，有誰收管？——須是得這個魔頭，你纔肯入我瑜伽之門路哩！”

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