

## 16. 薛居州與宋王

### 《孟子·公孫丑下》

孟子謂戴不勝曰：「子欲子之王善與？我明告子。有楚大夫於此，欲其子之齊語也，則使齊人傅諸？使楚人傅諸？」曰：「使齊人傅之。」曰：「一齊人傅之，眾楚人咻之，雖日撻而求其齊也，不可得矣。引而置之莊嶽之間數年，雖日撻而求其楚，亦不可得矣。子謂薛居州，善士也，使之居於王所。在於王所者，長、幼、卑、尊皆薛居州也，王誰與為不善？在王所者，長、幼、卑、尊皆非薛居州也，王誰與為善？一薛居州獨如宋王何？」

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## Xue Ju Zhou and the King of Song State

### < The Mencius >

Mencius said to Dai Bu Sheng, “Do you really want your king to be a sagacious and worthy ruler? Let me tell you this quite frankly. Suppose a Chu official here wants his son to learn the Qi dialect, would you think he should have a native speaker of the Qi dialect to coach him, or a native speaker of the Chu dialect to coach him?”

Dai Bu Sheng replied, “Of course, a speaker of the Qi dialect.”

Mencius said, “Right, but you must realise that while he is taught the Qi dialect, he is still bombarded by the noisy Chu speakers jabbering all the time around him. In these circumstances, it is impossible for him to learn to speak the Qi dialect even if you beat him daily to make him learn it. If you make him stay for a few years at the Zhuang or Yu districts where the Qi dialect is spoken, he then won’t be able to speak his Chu dialect any more, even if you beat him daily to make him speak it.

“You said Xue Ju Zhou was a man of high principle and you wanted him to live in his Majesty’s palace, hoping he would set a good example for his Majesty. If the people in the palace, be they young or old, high or low, are people of good moral principle, his Majesty would not be able to find accomplices with whom he does evil deeds. If none of the people serving his Majesty in the palace is an equal of Xue Ju Zhou, where, then will his Majesty find one who can join him to do good? So, Xue Ju Zhou alone won’t be of any use to the king of the Song state.”