Extraordinary Faculties

笑府卷六
殊稟部

墨憨子曰：人之情性不同，好尚亦異，至于蜻蜓與游，瘡痂為飯，則幾于非人矣。吾獨取夫騃子者，一團天趣，可矜可喜，世人皆笑其騃，而孰知其自謂不騳者，大騳人也，悲夫。集殊稟部。

The Inky Simpleton Master says that because people's dispositions vary, their likes and dislikes also vary. Some weirdoes go so far as to travel in the company of dragonflies or to eat the scab over a sore.1 These are nearly non-humans. I take particular delight in the simpletons whose naiveté deserves sympathy, yet who are always made fun of. Actually, those who make fun of the fools and claim to be free of folly themselves are the most laughable. So I compile the section “Extraordinary Faculties.”

性剛

有父子俱性剛，不肯讓人者。一日父留客飲，遣子入城市肉。子取肉回，將出城門，值一人對面而來，各不相讓，遂挺立良久。父尋至，見之，謂子曰：「汝姑持肉回，陪客飯。待我與他對立在此。」

(204) Unyielding Nature (6:1a-b)

Father and son are both unyielding by nature. One day, the father asks a family visitor to stay for some wine and food, while sending the son to go to the market in town for some nice meat. After buying the meat, the son leaves the market town for home. As he is exiting the city gate, someone is entering the city gate, and neither is willing to yield to the other party. So they just stand there, facing each other, for a long time, until the father comes to look for his son. Understanding the situation, the father instructs his son, “You may take the

1 Liu Yong 劉邕, who lived in the Song period during the Northern and Southern Dynasties (420–479), loved to eat the scab over a sore, finding it as delicious as abalone. See Li Yanshou 李延壽, Nanshi 南史, Liezhuan 列傳 55b-6a, rpt. in Wang Yunwu 王雲五, ed., Baina ben er shi si shi 百衲本二十四史 (Taiwan: Shangwu yinshuguan, 2010), 14:83.
meat home and dine with our guest, while I take your place here to stand face-to-face with this guy."

性急

一人性甚急，常謂妻曰：「世上若更有性急過我者，我必躁死！」一日，入麺店，曰：「快取麺來！」麺主人持麺至，傾之桌上，曰：「你胡亂喫罷，我要緊淨碗！」其人怒，歸，對妻述之曰：「我必死矣！」妻聞之，便往嫁人。既嫁，踰一宿，後夫欲出之，婦曰：「我何罪？」後夫曰：「我怪你不養兒子！」

(205) Impetuousness (6:1b-2a)
An impetuous person often tells his wife, "If there are people in the whole wide world who are more impetuous than I am, then I would be so irritated I could die." One day he enters a noodle shop and demands that noodles be served to him instantly. The shopkeeper brings him a bowl of noodles, pours the content on the table, and says, "Here, slurp! I have to hurry up and wash the bowl." The impetuous man goes home in an agitated mood, tells his wife what has happened, and cries, "I am going to die for certain." Hearing this, the wife instantaneously leaves him and marries another man. The day after the wedding, the woman's second husband is asking for a divorce. The wife is baffled. "Honey, what did I do wrong?" Her second husband snaps, "I am mad that you haven't delivered me a son!"

又

有性急者，僕有過，跪而責之，連呼板子不至，躁甚。僕謂主曰：「且打箇巴掌，應一應急。」

(205A) Also (Impetuousness) (5:2a)
A man is very impetuous. Once his servant commits an offense and he orders the servant to kneel down to receive his punishment. Calling out for the rod to be brought to him repeatedly without getting a prompt response, he is profusely irritated. Fearing that the master may break down due to the pent-up fury, the servant makes him an offer, "Master, quickly slap me in the face as an emergent remedy!"