

THE ROLE OF THE “HEART” IN PHYSIOGNOMY

The honorable Diễm was a physiognomist, much revered by many in Viet Nam in the mid-20th century. During that tumultuous period of Vietnamese history, he did physiognomy readings to many important personalities. The admiration and respect of those individuals was such that they nicknamed him “Divine Master”, “Saint”, and the like. His stories were circulated from mouth to mouth until two years ago when the book, “Tướng Pháp Ngô Hùng Diễm”, in Vietnamese, was published in the U.S. The myths surrounding him came to light and his fundamental physiognomy principles got organized in a systematic and methodical manner as in applied sciences.

The author of the book is Quyên Quang Tran, the most favorite disciple of Mr. Ngô Hùng Diễm. Not only is he the torchbearer for his master, but also brought logic into the art of physiognomy, which is often perceived as an occult power. In the book, Quyên Quang Tran introduces the readers to a scientific method, to understand and unlock the occult aspect of the physiognomy. He shows the readers

how to develop observation skills, how to make analysis, and how to apply the physiognomy laws.

Is it possible that we are predestinated by birth date and time or physiognomy we were born with?

According to Quyen Quang Tran, his master, Mr. Ngô Hùng Diễm, did not believe that one’s destiny is engraved in stone. His belief is not a new concept. The great Vietnamese poet Nguyễn Du of the 16th century wrote: “Ever since the beginning of time, man’s will has quite often triumphed over destiny”. There is also an ancient saying that one’s physiognomy can change with the change of one’s heart.

Mr. Ngô Hùng Diễm also held the same belief and is known to have directly “intervened” in the lives of the people who sought his advice to change the outcome of their destinies. He warned however that “even though through intervention, one’s destiny can be changed, it is only temporary. To achieve a permanent and positive change, one needs to perform substantial charity and many positive actions.”

According to Ngô Hùng Diễm’s physiognomy principles, a righteous or virtuous living will reduce the chances of negative events and increase the chances of positive events in a person’s life. An evil living on the other hand will reduce or even erase all the good karma.

In the about 300-page “*Tướng Pháp Ngô Hùng Diễm*” book, Quyen Quang Tran has carefully compiled everything he learned from his master over the nine years, from witnessing his compassion towards everybody regardless of social class – even to trees, to advising people to do good deeds, to avoid creating further bad karma.

Ngô Hùng Diễm’s fundamentals of physiognomy reading are based primarily on four elements: form, color, voice, and countenance. The countenance occupies the most important place among those four elements. There is another element on top of the four, the “heart” element. The heart generates or diminishes the countenance

which will in turn impact positively or negatively the form, color and voice. This train of interconnections will occur each time a person makes a good or bad decision.

In his book, Quyen Quang Tran goes into considerable depth explaining the role of the heart in shaping or forming one's karma. However, he modestly says: "This book is not meant to cover every aspect of physiognomy reading art; it only covers the fundamental aspects of the art based on my master's teachings."

Throughout the book, Quyen Quang Tran continuously reminds the reader of the "miraculous effect" of the heart on every aspect of life. In one passage, he says: "In a matter of seconds, a disturbed heart could disrupt the countenance, which in turn could affect the color (bright turns to dark), the voice (strong turns to weak). These could be a sign of imminent calamity."

In writing the book, Quyen Quang Tran hopes to enable the reader to find peace of mind at difficult times in life. He also provides guidance to distinguish between a good versus a bad partner and to help family members making choices. In addition, he says: "Just as medicine has its own knowledge base, so does the science of physiognomy. The more comprehensive knowledge base, the more accurate the reading will be."

The "Tuống Pháp Ngô Hùng Diễn", in Vietnamese, has been very well received in and outside Viet Nam. Quyen Quang Tran has been invited to give many interviews with newspapers, radio and television. The interviews gave him an opportunity to further elaborate on the key points of the book.

This book, the "Physiognomy, the Art of Reading People" in English with about 600 pages, is the second edition of the "Tuống Pháp Ngô Hùng Diễn". To this new edition, Quyen Quang Tran has made numerous additions to take account of global aspects of races, to further elaborate the key issues based on various cultures, to change

the writing style to make it easier to read, and to add several hundreds of new and redrawn photos for better understanding the meaning of the features. The "Physiognomy, the Art of Reading People" book had been edited by a group of people of various cultural and educational backgrounds.

It is noted that physiognomy reading is a subtle and sophisticated art. To be a good physiognomist, it requires a good quality observation, a solid logic, and a calm heart, coupled with a strong desire to help people in need.

In almost 50 years, Quyen Quang Tran has never charged money or gained favor from his physiognomy readings. He says that he only does it for his friends.

In Viet Nam, Quyen Quang Tran was a Math teacher, specialist in the National Economic and Social Council, professor of Corporate Finance at Political Commerce School, Đà Lạt University, and member on the Advisory Board of National Economic Development Fund.

After 1975, he worked at the World Bank Group in Washington DC as a financial expert for 25 years. He has also devoted a lot of his time to community social and charity activities. In raising funds for poor people with visual problems in Viet Nam who require corrective surgery, he donated 1,000 copies of the "Tướng Pháp Ngô Hùng Diễn" to the Friends of the Blind organization, which was established in 2003.

In line with the ancient saying that "one's physiognomy can change with the change of one's heart", Quyen Quang Tran dismisses the belief that we are completely predestinated. He writes: "The person with a good heart and leading a virtuous life will envelop himself or herself in a flourished countenance, creating a favorable condition for the form to develop, the color to brighten, the voice to strengthen, and other signs of good karma. By contrast, the person with a bad

heart and leading a malicious life will damage his or her countenance, form, color, and voice, creating a condition conducive to bad karma.”

The world’s population has now exceeded seven billions. We are increasingly exposed to both national and international shocks, which can easily overwhelm the force of destiny. World War II triggered by fascism killed millions of people and changed the lives of millions of others. The advent and spread of communism killed millions of innocent people and changed billions of lives. If these doctrines had not existed, the world would obviously have taken a different path. Quyen Quang Tran summed the phenomenon up as “one’s karma depends on one’s nation karma, which in turn depends on planetary karma”.

The above insight finds a clear echo in Quyen Quang Tran’s path-breaking book, the “Physiognomy, the Art of Reading People”.

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