

In reviewing the manuscript "Evaluation of Wu Xun and the Propaganda Regarding Wu Xun," written by Yang Er [1]:

First,

The central endeavor of Wu Xun is the so-called begging and running "charitable" schools. This matter has misled many naive, brainless old do-gooders. In reality, it is a scam. Perhaps Wu Xun intended to establish schools for poor children, but in practice, he could only establish schools for the children of wealthy individuals. It was impossible for genuinely poor children to attend his schools. The schools controlled by those jinshi and juren scholars would never allow truly poor children to participate. Wu Xun's "charitable" schools were, in fact, schools of injustice. The money was brutally extorted.

Firstly, it was coerced; Wu Xun was a villainous beggar who threatened kind-hearted people with poison to force them to donate money. Secondly, he engaged in usury (with an interest rate of three percent). Thirdly, he relied on official power to solicit donations. The sources of these three types of money were all improper. The schools he established were not truly for "poor children." The notion of "for poor children" is merely empty rhetoric; in reality, it was for wealthy children. Only those extremely naive individuals would believe that there actually existed a group of "poor children" jumping around in Wu Xun's "charitable" schools.

Now, let's set aside the methods and outcomes of Wu Xun's school establishment and focus solely on the motivation behind it. That is to say, assuming he truly wanted to educate poor children and thereby change the miserable status of poor people, is this idea improper? We say, it is one thing for Wu Xun himself to have such thoughts, but it is another matter for his descendants to propagate them. Wu Xun's descendants propagating these ideas would be using Wu Xun to promote their own agendas, even to the extent of producing films, writing works, and dissertations to widely propagate them among the Chinese people, which raises fundamental questions.

Secondly,

Before Wu Xun put forward the slogan of "charitable" schools, he suffered. However, since he introduced the attractive and moving slogan of "charitable" schools, he gained respect day by day, eventually becoming a favorite of the reactionary government. The more he begged, the stronger he became, and he no longer suffered at all. Look, Wu Xun appeared very respectable; he understood the feudal social hierarchy. The more he pretended, the more he could win the favor of jinshi and juren scholars, and the more famous he became. Although he was already wealthy, he still begged. The more he begged, the more famous he became, and the wealthier he became.

Wu Xun was a clever and ruthless person, thus becoming the "eternal beggar of the ages," only fooling those who were extremely naive. The old reactionary writers intentionally depicted Wu Xun's trickery as a "beautiful story." The incident of Wu Xun saying, "As a beggar, I dare not be impolite to a teacher," is also prominently featured in the "Qing Dynasty History Manuscripts" biography of Wu Xun.

Note:

[1] Yang Er, also known as Xu Liqun, was the Deputy Minister of the Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Democratic Youth League at the time.