

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

CONCERNING PARTICLE 亦

A. Waley in his *Notes on Mencius* on p. 100 of this number rightly corrects Legge's translation of Mêng-tze, *Ch. Cl. II*, p. 1. It would seem that Legge had misunderstood the entire sentence. As is well known, we have here the quintessence of the conversations between Mêng-tze and King Hui of Liang, which were written down after the former's death. The philosopher of recognised repute journeyed to the court and it was known from experience that he was bringing with him political and moral advice. The question in the first sentence contains an ironical rebuke to the king and should probably read as follows:

"Venerable Sir, as you have not deemed 1000 miles far, to come here, (therefore) surely an advantage for my realm will result (of it, viz. of this visit)?"

This adverb 亦 (incorrectly translated by Legge in many instances) has also been most unsatisfactorily dealt with by Gabelentz in his *Chinesische Grammatik*, §§ 1265-67, and would require detailed research. Its fundamental meaning would seem to lie in the words "also", "likewise". However, besides that, it contains a number of other meanings which are based, more or less clearly, on the above; e.g., "still" ("however", "still now"), e.g., *Shu-king V*, 21, 4 (= *Ch. Cl. III*, p. 539); "yet also", "nevertheless", "yet surely", e.g., *Shu-king II*, 4, 1. (= *Ch. Cl. III*, 76) but here it may mean "likewise". Further meanings of 亦 are "at any rate", "certainly", "of course"; e.g., *Shi-king I*, 2, III, 1. (= *Ch. Cl. IV*, 23); "however", "nevertheless" ("though" — "yet"), e.g., *Shu-king IV*, 7 (1) 8 (= *Ch. Cl. III*, 226); "only"; "and" ("and also"). Very often, however, it is used with a derived, confused meaning so that it has been difficult until now, even impossible, to understand and to explain it correctly everywhere. It would seem to be idiomatic as, e.g., in *Lun-yü I*, 2 ff. (= *Ch. Cl. I*, 1). Its use in combinations will have to be studied, e.g., 亦惟, 亦越 and interrogatively 不亦 and 無亦. The double 亦 . . . 亦 means "as well as", "both . . . and" (just like the Latin "et . . . et" which is also related to "etiam"), e.g., *Lu-shi Chun-tsu* 19, 3b: 戟亦兵也。矛亦兵也。"Both the trident and spear are weapons". Used negatively it means "neither — nor" ("neque — neque"), e.g., *Shi-king III*, 3, VI, 5 (= *Ch. Cl. IV*, 544): 柔亦不茹。剛亦不吐。"Neither does he devour the soft nor spit out the hard".