以「攻宦」為名:明成化間名臣王恕的政治形塑

(提要)

吳兆豐

明中期名臣王恕(1416-1508)以「攻宦」及敢於直言諫諍而聞名當時後世。本文並非 重申王恕氣節,而是根據王恕奏疏集等文本史料,探討明成化間王恕以「攻宦」為主 的「格君」行動及其政治形塑情形。王恕自入仕途以來,並未嚴厲批評宦官,故「未 甚為人知也」。成化十二年,大學士商輅(1414-1486)議設雲南巡撫,藉以彈壓日益 肆橫的鎮守太監錢能。膺任巡撫之選的王恕「心知所謂」,竭力彈劾錢能諸不法狀, 結果「聲震遠邇」。「攻宦」帶來的卓著名節,使王恕越參以批評權倖自任,以大臣「格 君」自重。就實際情況而言,王恕在「攻宦」和直言、格君」上均未見實效,卻得到當 時一眾士人任情推崇。王恕默許來自時人幾近誇大、有違事實的贊許,乃至推波助 瀾。時人對王恕的推崇及其政治形塑,並非純粹出於褒揚名節,有為其入閣製造聲 勢和輿論的可能。

關鍵詞: 王恕 成化朝 宦宫 格君 政治形塑

Known for "Attacking the Eunuchs": Famous Courtier Wang Shu's Political Activities and His Political Image Building in the Ming Chenghua Period

(Abstract)

Wu Zhaofeng

Wang Shu 王恕, a well-known courtier in mid-Ming dynasty, was famous for "attacking the eunuchs" and brave admonishment of the emperor. Instead of reaffirming Wang's integrity, this article focuses on the political actions concerning which Wang remonstrated with the emperor, as well as the background and process of how he earned fame with the objective of "Attack the Eunuchs." At the time Wang Sha became an officer, he seldom expressed severe criticism of eunuchs, and by 1476, he was not known by other officials. However, Shang Lu 商輅, a senior grand secretar of cabinet, discussed the proposal of setting up the governor of Yunnan to suppress the increasing power of Guardian Eunuch Qian Neng 錢能 who had become notorious for his illegal acts. Wang Shu, who was appointed to the governor position, endeavoured to impeach Qian for his widespread malfeasance, and he therefore became known far and wide. The fame coupled with lashing out at the eunuchs inspired Wang Shu to make more efforts to criticize the eunuchs and educate the emperor. Although Wang's action did not have practical effect, his reputation was further promoted by a group of literati, and Wang Shu himself acquiesced to the exaggerated compliments by others. This article finally finds that the real aim of building Wang Shu's political image by those literati and Wang himself was probably to increase momentum and muster public opinion for Wang getting into the cabinet.

Keywords: Wang Shu Chenghua period eunuchs admonishing the emperor political image building