

## Three deeds towards creation

Good judgement came from experiences; while experience came from bad judgement.

---Indian idiom

There are three human deeds, or intellectual activities, just three.

I simplified all intellectual work and conclude them in following three deeds: decision making; experiencing; learning.

Let's start from beginning, **decision making** .

As the highest level of intelligence, all people are involved in doing it. There is more sophisticated pursuit, namely enlightenment which involves only elites.

To determine is an activity of philosophers, using concepts and thinking. However people do make decisions without philosophy, depending upon their own judgement. There must be a basis, the basis leading to decisions.

Wise decisions came from experiences, especially those called failures. As people say, bad experiences.

Now we move to the second, **experiences** .

Experience has two meanings, either human activities, or feeling derived from activities. Activity denotes doing, while feeling denotes what we get from doing.

Compared to decision making, acquiring experience is in lower level, it's closely related to daily life and details surrounding us.

This level is extremely important as it consists major part of human activities, and it is the link between real world and our world of spirit.

Failed practice perceived by our brain became experience in negative meaning, as the Indian idiom told us.

Let's move to **learning** .

Learning equals acquiring knowledge. The knowledge could be experiences acquired by other people, either from books or by hearing others talk. Practice is different as it denotes activities or practice, not reading and talking.

Learning opens to all knowledge. Students spend ten plus years to acquire them.

Practice includes all practical doing, like marshall art, or using tools. The daily life of apprentice is practicing their tools for living.

There are all kinds of knowledge to learn from, just as many tools to practice with.

Learning knowledge, though very important, is just fundamental.

Let me extend our themes to **creation** , or creative activity.

Creative activity includes all three deeds

mentioned, learning, experiencing and decision making, in order to invent new objects from non existence.

More difficult than synthesizing those three deeds, creation needs us to break through conventions and to trust our instincts.

In 1985 during my respected tutor Prof. K. Lehmann visited Wuxi he said: There are three levels of knowledge: philosophy, methodology and knowledge in general; these three parts make a pyramid with philosophy on top, methodology in the middle, and general knowledge at bottom.

Maybe, I thought, different people differ from the three levels they are hanging on.

As to the three deeds, decision relates to philosophy; experience to methodology and learning to general knowledge.

## 事不过三说创造

事不过三, 此处的事, 指人的脑力从事之活动。脑力所做的, 我想可以简化为三件事情:

一、判断

二、经验

三、学

先说第一, 就是判断。

这个是最层面的精神活动, 是所有人都要做, 也会做的。另外还有更高级的活动, 就是觉悟了; 那个是极少数精英的事情。大众是无意也无力去奢求的。

判断也是哲学层面的事情, 因为必须使用概念和思维。尽管大众不深究概念, 也不善于哲学思维, 他们并不缺乏判断力。这里就牵涉到了根据, 判断所凭借的根据。

正确的判断往往来自经验, 特别是失败的经验, 人称教训。所谓说一说不如做一做, 做一次不如

错一次。

就说第二，经验。

经验是个多义词，既指代人的活动，也指代活动的体验。人的活动用实践一词更加妥当；那么经验更多指体验了。既然这里经验不是实践活动本身，那么它就是实践中间以及实践以后的思想活动以及结果，就是相关想法。换句话讲，就是总结经验。

所以和判断不同，经验是低一个层次的事情，与实际生活以及具体工作密切相关。

这个层次非常重要，因为它构成了人活动的主体，也是连接实际世界与精神世界的实体。

失败的实践经过头脑，总结成为教训；这个教训是中文里面特有的吧？篇首的印地安谚语，说的经验实际上就是指的教训。翻成中文，应该接近于“吃一堑，长一智”吧。

再说学。

学不等于学习。学针对的是知识。也许是书本上的前人经验总结；或许是听到别人言谈里面包含

的道理。皆可称作学。习就不同，针对的是活动，或实践。仅仅看书，聊天的都不叫习。过去人说“习武”，却说“学问”。前者动手动脚，后者动脑动嘴。

学的内容就包含了一切知识。学生花费十多年时间主要就是要学知识。

习的内容就是实践的事情，比如武术，或者操作工具。学徒从事的大都属于熟习技能。

知识浩如烟海；实践五花八门。

学知识，是非常重要的，也是基础层面的事情。人一出生，就投入了这个事情里面。进入学校，更加要从早到晚从事之。但是，归根结蒂，学还是低层次的工作。

延伸话题，联系到创造，或者今天人说的创新。

创新活动是比较难，也是综合性的事情。它是综合了以上三件事，包括学习，经验和判断，才能够“无中生有”地发明新的事物。创新的难度还不止于综合上面三者，更加在于需要突破和直觉。突破常规的局限，以及依靠直觉的引导。

又想到，大约30年前，我的老师雷曼教授在无锡演讲时候提到的知识的三个层次。也就是哲学，方法学和一般知识。这三者从上到下，构成了一个金字塔。

不同层次的人就是因为他们生活在这座金字塔的不同层面上吧。

我们所说的三件事，判断对应的是哲学，经验对应着方法学，而学就面对知识。

Y HUO

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