

12. Yan Yuan (顏淵) asked

1. Yan Yuan asked about ethical integrity. The Master said, "To overcome oneself and bring oneself back to Li (理), that is ethical integrity. Even for a day, if you overcome yourself and bring yourself back to Li, the whole world will be restored with ethical integrity. It depends on you to practice ethical integrity. Do you need to depend on others?" Yan Yuan said, "What are the concrete steps to practice ethical integrity?" The Master said, "If it is not in accordance with Li, do not even look at it, do not lend your ears to it, do not talk about it, do not act on it." Yan Yuan said, "Although I am not smart, I shall mark these words."

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2. Zhong Gong asked about ethical integrity. The Master said, "When you are outside, behave courteously as if you are having an audience with a great guest. When you employ people, treat them with respect as if you are conducting a solemn ceremony. What you yourself do not want, do not do it to others. Make sure that there is no grievance in the country and in your household." Zhong Gong said, "Although I am not smart, I shall mark these words."

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3. Si Ma Niu asked about ethical integrity. The Master said, "He who has ethical integrity does not say much." Si Ma Niu said, " 'Not saying much'? Is this ethical integrity?" The Master said, "To do what you say is difficult enough. Should you not be cautious in what you say?"

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4. Si Ma Niu asked about noble man. The Master said, "A noble man does not worry, is not ashamed." Si Ma Niu said, " 'No worry, no shame'? Is this what noble man is about?" The Master

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6. Zi Zhang asked about brilliance. The Master said, "When insidious calumnies and piercing accusations have no effect, that is brilliance. When insidious calumnies and piercing accusations have no effect, you may call it far-reaching as well."

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8. Ji Zi Cheng said, “A noble man should focus on substance. What’s the point of sophistication?” Zi Gong said, “Alas, what you say about a noble man is revealing of you. Too late to

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12. The Master said, "If there is a person who can decide a case having heard only one side, You (□) is such a person,

isn't he?" Zi Lu says yes without hesitation.

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13. The Master said, "In handling litigations, I am like others. Make sure that there is no litigation!"

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14. Zi Zhang asked about governing. The Master said, "Be diligent. Act loyally."

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15. The Master said, "When a noble man learns broadly and refines himself, and when he constrains himself with Li, how can he be overstepping?"

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16. The Master said, "A noble man brings out the best in people. He does not bring out the worst in people. The petty and the lowly do the opposite."

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17. Mr Ji Kang asked about governing. Confucius answered, "It is to be upright. If you lead by being an upright example, who would dare to be corrupt?"

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18. Mr Ji Kang was concerned about the problem of theft. He asked Confucius. Confucius answered, "If you yourself do not have desires, people won't steal even if they are given a reward for stealing."

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19. Mr Ji Kang asked about governing by saying the following to Confucius: "Suppose those who are lawless are killed so that the proper way is restored. How about that?" Confucius answered, "You say you are governing. Why would you use killing? If you yourself desire to do good, then people will be good. A ruler is like wind. The petty and the lowly are like grass. When wind blows above the grass, the grass will

bend.”

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20. Zi Zhang asked, "What should an officer do so that he can be called an accomplished person?" The Master said, "What do you mean by 'accomplished'?" Zi Zhang answered, "Renowned in the country, renowned in the family." The Master said, "That is renown. It is different from being 'accomplished'. An accomplished person has the straightforward basic quality and finds delight in righteousness. He cautiously observes people's speeches and appearances. He is considerate to people who are below him. Such a person is accomplished wherever he may be. A renowned person puts on an appearance of having ethical integrity but his actions are against it. He remains and indulges in his position without self reflection. Such a person is bound to be renowned in the country and in the family."

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21. Fan Chi came along to the picnic at the rain altar. He said, "May I ask about supreme virtue, about how to correct insidious flaws, and about how not to be misled?" The Master said, "Good question! To serve first without thinking about what you will get. Isn't it the supreme virtue? Tackle your own faults rather than other people's faults. Isn't it a way to correct insidious flaws. Propelled by a morning's indignation, if you forget your own safety and the safety of your parents, are you not misled?"

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22. Fan Chi asked about ethical integrity. The Master said, "It means to love people". Fan Chi asked about knowledge. The Master said, "It means to know people". Fan Chi didn't get it. The Master said, "Employ the upright to grind off the crooked. Then you can straighten up the crooked." Fan Chi went back to

his abode. When he saw Zi Xia, he said, "Well, I saw the Master and asked about knowledge. The Master said, 'Employ the upright to grind off the crooked. Then you can straighten up the crooked.' What does that mean?" Zi Xia said, "A rich remark indeed! When Shun had the whole world, he chose and employed Gao Yao. People who lack ethical integrity were kept at distance. When Tang had the whole world, he chose and employed Yi Yin. Those who lack ethical integrity were kept at distance.

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23. Zi Gong asked about friendship. The Master said, “Give sincere advice and lead them to the good. If it is not possible, then stop being friends. Do not humiliate yourself.

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24. Zeng Zi said, "A noble man would meet friends thanks to his erudition. A noble man's ethical integrity is reinforced thanks to his friends."

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