

13. Zi Lu (子路)

1. Zi Lu asked about governing. The Master said, “Lead by example. Work hard.” Zi Lu asked for more guidance. The Master said, “Don’t be lazy.”

子路問政。子曰：「先之，令之。」子路又請。子曰：「無倦。」

2. Zhong Gong became a minister to Lord Ji. Zhong Gong asked about governing. The Master said, “Lead sundry officers, pardon small wrongdoings, employ talented persons.” Zhong Gong asked, “How can I know and employ talented persons?” The Master said, “Employ those whom you know. Those who are not known to you, do you think people will discard them?”

仲弓為季氏宰，問政。子曰：「先有司，赦小過，舉才力。」仲弓又請。子曰：「舉爾所知，而不知者，人亦棄之。」

3. Zi Lu said, “The ruler of Wei is waiting for you intending to entrust the governing. What will you do first?” The Master said, “Rectify names, of course.” Zi Lu said, “Is that so? You are off the mark. How come rectifying names is your first priority?” The Master said, “How uncivilized you are! A noble man would remain quiet when it is about something he does not know. If names are not correctly used, your speech will be feigned. With a feigned speech, you cannot accomplish anything. If things are not accomplished, the Li and the Music will not flourish. If the Li and the Music do not flourish, punishments will not be properly administered. If punishments are not properly administered, people would not know where to stand. If a noble man should name names, he must be able to defend it. If he should say things, he must be able to act on it. When it comes to speech, a noble man ought not to talk nonsense.”

子路曰：「衛君待子而後治，子將先何事？」子曰：「名不正則言不順，言不順則事不成，事不成則禮樂不興，禮樂不興則刑罰不中，刑罰不中則民無所措手足。」子路曰：「敢問：『正名』，何謂也？」子曰：「君君，臣臣，父父，子子。」

4. Fan Chi wanted to learn how to sow seeds. The Master said, “I am not a farmer.” He then wanted to learn fruit and

vegetable gardening. The Master said, "I am not a gardener." Fan Chi left. The Master said, "Petty and lowly, he is! When those in high positions are fond of Li, people dare not be irreverent. When those in high positions are fond of righteousness, people dare not rebel. When those in high positions are fond of trust, people dare not be insincere. When things are like this, people from all corners will come to you carrying their children. Why do you need to know how to sow seeds?"

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5. The Master said, "There are people who can recite all three hundred poems. But when they are entrusted with governing, they cannot manage. When they are sent on diplomatic missions, they cannot cope on their own. There are many of them, but they are all useless.

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6. The Master said, "If the commander is an upright person, carry out his wishes without waiting for an order. If the commander is not an upright person, do not follow his orders."

周知 (Zhu Xi keeps quiet about this. 周知 presents this as a 'description' rather and an 'exhortation to disobey'.)

7. The Master said, "Government of Lu and government of Wei are like brothers." [魯衛政猶兄弟也]

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8. The Master spoke of Gong Zi Jing of Wei, "He has a beautiful house. At the beginning, he said, 'I just want it to be put together.' When he had some structures, he said, 'I just want it be complete.' When it was richly done, he said, 'I just want it be beautiful.' "

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9. The Master went to Wei. Ran Yu was driving the carriage.

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15. Duke Ding (□) asked, “Is there a saying which can make a country prosper?” Confucius answered, “Speech cannot have such an effect. But there is something close. There is a saying, ‘It is hard to be a ruler, it is not easy to be a minister.’ If a ruler knows how difficult it is to be a ruler, isn’t it

close to the case of one sentence making the country prosper?" Duke Ding said, "Is there a saying which can ruin a country?" Confucius answered, "Speech cannot have such an effect. But there is something close. There is a saying, 'The only joy of being a ruler is that people say nothing which is against you.' If you are doing good and no one is against you, then that's not bad. But if you are not doing good and no one is against you, isn't it close to the case of one sentence ruining the country?"

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16. Duke of She asked about governing. The Master said, "It is to give happiness to those who are near and to attract those who are far removed."

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17. Zi Xia became governor of the town of Ju Fu. Zi Xia asked about governing. The Master said, "Don't rush. Don't look for small gains. If you rush, you won't succeed. If you seek small gains, you won't have big achievements."

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18. Duke of She (齊) told Confucius, “In my village, there is an honest person. When his father stole a sheep, he testified against it.” Confucius said, “In my village, honesty is different. Father’s deed may be covered by the son. Son’s deed may be covered by the father. Honesty is there!”

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19. Fan Chi asked about ethical integrity. The Master said, "Be polite at home. Be respectful when you do things. Be loyal in your dealings with others. Even if you go to barbarian tribes, you should not let go of this."

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20. Zi Gong asked, "What qualities are needed to be regarded

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