

15. Duke Ling (衛) of Wei (魏)

1. Duke Ling of Wei (衛) asked Confucius about military tactical formations. Confucius replied, “Regarding the handling of ceremonial vessels, I have heard and studied a bit. Regarding military troops, I have not learned yet.” On the following day, Confucius left Wei.

衛侯問於孔子曰：「衛之政，吾欲使子居之，子盍告我。」孔子對曰：「衛之政，吾欲使子居之，子盍告我。」

2. In Chen (陳), they ran out of food, attendants fell ill and none of them could move. Zi Lu revealed his discontent and said, “Does a noble man also suffer like this?” The Master said, “A noble man firmly suffers – unlike the petty and the lowly who transgress when they suffer.”

子路曰：「衛之政，吾欲使子居之，子盍告我。」子曰：「衛之政，吾欲使子居之，子盍告我。」

3. The Master said, “Ci (齊), do you think I am someone who learned a lot of things and acquired the knowledge?” Zi Gong replied, “Yes. Is it not the case?” The Master said, “No. I only have one overarching principle.”

子曰：「齊，吾欲使子居之，子盍告我。」子貢曰：「齊，吾欲使子居之，子盍告我。」

4. The Master said, “You (衛), few people know what virtue means.”

子曰：「衛，吾欲使子居之，子盍告我。」

5. The Master said, “Shun (舜) is the one who ruled effortlessly, isn’t he? What did he do? He just reverently occupied the royal seat facing South and that’s it.”

子曰：「舜，吾欲使子居之，子盍告我。」

6. Zi Zhang asked about success. The Master said, “Speech must be loyal and trustworthy. Conduct must be sincere and respectful. You will then succeed even in barbarian countries. If your speech is not loyal or trustworthy and if your conduct is not sincere or respectful, will you succeed even in a village? When you are standing, you must see these precepts in front of you. When you are in a carriage, you must see these

precepts attached to the yoke. You can then succeed." Zi Zhang wrote them on his belt.

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7. The Master said, "Record keeper Yu (俞) was an upright person indeed! When the country was on the right path, he was straight as an arrow. When the country was on the wrong path, he was straight as an arrow. Qu Bo Yu (曲伯俞) was a noble man indeed! When the country was on the right path, he took up a post. When the country was on the wrong path, he was able to wind up and kept a low profile."

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8. The Master said, "Not to speak to those who are worth having a conversation with, is to lose people. To speak to those who are not worth having a conversation with, is to commit an error of speech. A man of wisdom does not lose people. Nor does he commit an error of speech."

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9. The Master said, "A determined officer and a man of ethical integrity will not seek to live undermining ethical integrity. They will sacrifice their live to fulfil their ethical integrity."

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10. Zi Gong asked about carrying out ethical integrity. The Master said, “A worker who wishes to do a good job must have his tools sharpened beforehand. While you are staying in this country, serve those of the magnates who are excellent and befriend those officers who have ethical integrity.”

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11. Yan Yuan asked about looking after a country. The Master said, “Adopt the calendar of Xia (夏), ride the carriage of Yin (殷), wear the crown of Zhou (周). As for music, go for Shao (韶) style and its dance. Ban the songs of Zheng (鄭). Stay away

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20. The Master said, "A noble man would be mortified if he is not even once commended until his death."

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21. The Master said, "A noble man seeks from within. The petty and the lowly seek from others."

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22. The Master said, "A noble man has a sense of pride without being quarrelsome. He is convivial without forming a clique."

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23. The Master said, "A noble man does not promote a person simply because of his words. Nor does he dismiss words simply because of the person."

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24. Zi Gong asked, "Is there a saying which I should practice all my life?" The Master said, "'To be considerate', that's it! What you yourself do not want, don't do it to others."

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25. The Master said, "In my dealings with others, have I done calumny or adulation? If I praise someone excessively, that is to see what he is made of. It is thanks to these people that the three dynasties of Xia, Yin and Zhou could take the upright path."

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26. The Master said, "I have seen record officers omitting to record a statement. Those who had horses let others ride them. They are all gone now."

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27. The Master said, "Soothing words confound virtue. Failure to tolerate small matters would disrupt greater plans."

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34. The Master said, "A noble man does not know small matters

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42. Music Master Mian (□) [a blind man] came to see Confucius. When the blind man was at the steps, Confucius said, "There, you have steps." When he arrived at the seat, Confucius said, "There, you have the seat." When everyone was seated,

Confucius reported to him, "So and so is here. So and so is here." After the Music Master left, Zi Zhang asked, "Is that how you speak to a Music Master?" Confucius said, "Yes, that's how you attend upon a Music Master."

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