

中(zhong) and 庸(yong)

What is 中(zhong)?

Middle, moderate, balanced, inside, timely, hit the mark right on ?

1. Timeliness, get the timing right (中時)

Confucius said, “A noble man has the sense of balance and constancy; the petty and the lowly lack the sense of balance and constancy. A noble man’s sense of balance and constancy means that he gets the timing right. The petty and the lowly abuse the sense of balance and constancy to have no fear, no caution.” (Zhong Yong, 2)

中庸之道，不偏不倚，無過無不及，此其大者也。 (中， 2)

2. Moderation, right balance (中庸)

Zi Gong asked, “Between Shi (Zi Zhang) and Shang (Zi Xia), who is better?” The Master said, “Shi goes too far and Shang falls short.” “Shi is better, then?” said Zi Gong. The Master said, “Going too far is similar to falling short.”

子曰：「雍也問：『舍其父之志，而自其父之志，何如？』」子曰：「盍求志於父。」 (中， 11.16)

The Master said, “If you cannot manage to do things at the right pace, you are bound to be either mad or indecisive. A mad man will go ahead, an indecisive person leaves things unaccomplished.”

子曰：「不得中行而必於兩者也，求其為中，不可得也。」 (中， 13.21)

The Master said, “When the Way is not practised, I know it because clever guys lend themselves to excesses, and stupid guys cannot manage. When the Way is unclear, I know it because talented guys lend themselves to excesses and incompetent guys cannot manage. Everybody eats but few know the taste.” (Zhong Yong, 4)

$(\square\square, 4)$

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3. Middle, avoiding the extremes, moderate

forever.” Shun (舜) gave the same order to Wu (武).

(, 20.1)

great Shun.”

(, 6)

4. Get it right, hit the mark, spot on (□□)

administered, people would not know where to stand.

(, 13.3)

But when he does, he surely hits the mark."

[illegible]

fortune. His speculation often turned out right.

[illegible]

What is 恒 (Yong)?

1. Constant (恒)

言必信，行必果 (言·行) Constancy in speech means trustworthy; constancy in conduct means respectable.

2. to work hard, toil (恒, 恒)

不积跬步，无以至千里 (不积) He who does not make effort should not dare to remain in a high position.

不积小流，无以成江海

3. foolish (恒)

人恒乐，天恒乐

“Stay hungry, stay foolish.”

4. 恒

人恒乐，天恒乐... (恒)

Grandiose statement about 恒 and 恒

When the emotions of joy, anger, sorrow, happiness are not stirred, it can be called Equilibrium. When they are stirred and yet all in proper control, it can be called Harmony. Equilibrium is the root of everything. Harmony is the method of achieving whatever you pursue. When Equilibrium and Harmony reaches perfection, everything will be in its proper place and all things will flourish.

人恒乐，天恒乐... (恒, 1)

恒 and 恒

Everybody says, ‘I know’. They adopt a position of balance and constance, but they cannot stick to it for a month.

人恒乐，天恒乐... (恒, 7)

[illegible][illegible]

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The Master said, 'Archery has something similar to a noble man's behaviour. When you miss the mark, you reflect upon yourself to improve. The Way of a noble man is this: If you wish to go far, you should start from going to a near destination; if wish to climb a high mountain, you should start from climbing a low mound.

[illegible]