

1. To learn

1. The Master said, "To learn and to put it into practice at the right moment; isn't it wonderful! To have friends who come visit you from afar; isn't it delightful! People don't understand you and you don't mind; you sure are a noble man!"

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2. Master You said, “He who serves his parents with respect and treats his brothers with affection would rarely usurp his superiors. He who would not usurp his superiors, but would nevertheless cause disruption: there hasn’t been one. A noble man will direct his efforts to what is fundamental. When the foundation is established, then the Way will appear. Respect for parents and affection for brothers are the root of ethical integrity.”

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3. The Master said, "Soothing words and pleasant face; there can hardly be any ethical integrity there."

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4. Master Zeng said, “Every day, I scrutinise myself about three things – in undertaking other people’s business, whether I was loyal; in my dealings with friends, whether I was trustworthy; what I have been taught, whether I put it into practice.”

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5. The Master said, "The way to govern a country of thousand chariots is this. Respectfully handle the matters with trustworthiness. Adopt a measured approach but love people. Mobilise the people at the right moment."

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6. The Master said, "When you are at home, serve your parents. When you go out, be affectionate to others. Be earnest and trustworthy. Comprehensively love all living beings but

closeness should be based on ethical integrity. Conduct should come first. Then, study when you have energy to spare."

7. Zi Xia said, "If you know better than knowing, overcome appearances, serve your parents with all your might, serve your boss with all that you have, abide by your words when socialising with friends, who can say that you haven't learned? I will certainly say that you have learned."

8. The Master said, "A noble man who lacks gravitas does not inspire awe. Learning will remove narrow-mindedness. The most important thing is to be loyal and trustworthy. Do not befriend those who are not as good as you. If you discover a fault, do not hesitate to mend it."

9. Master Zeng said, "When funerals are conducted sincerely and ancestors are commemorated for a long time, people's virtue will become ample again."

10. Zi Qin asked Zi Gong, “When the Master arrives at a country, he is always consulted about government affairs. Does he seek it or is it given to him?” Zi Gong said, “The Master obtains it through his warmth, honesty, modesty, moderation and humility. What he seeks is different from what people seek.”

11. The Master said, “When your father is around, you need to observe his intentions. When he is no longer around, you need to observe his deeds. If you do not divert from your father’s way for three years, you can be regarded as serving your parents well.”

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