

7. I transmit

1. The Master said, “I transmit; I do not create. I lay my trust and find pleasure in the old. I even compare myself to Lao Peng (老彭).”

我欲與古為徒，而不可得，自謂及彭祖、老彭而已。

2. The Master said, “Not to boast about what I know; to learn without finding it irksome, to teach people diligently – Do I have any problem with these?”

吾欲求而無所不能，而不可得，自謂及顏回、子路而已。

3. The Master said, “To fail to cultivate virtues, fail to teach what I have learned, fail to follow what I have realised to be right, fail to reform what is not good – these are my worries.”

吾欲求而無所不能，而不可得，自謂及顏回、子路而已。

4. In his moments of leisure, the Master was relaxed and radiant.

吾欲求而無所不能，而不可得，自謂及顏回、子路而已。

5. The Master said, “Seriously, I must be getting old. It has been quite a while since I cease to see the Duke of Zhou in my dream.”

吾欲求而無所不能，而不可得，自謂及顏回、子路而已。

6. The Master said, “Have the determination to practise the Way, stick to the good things which you have figured out, abide by ethical integrity and give yourself freely to liberal arts.”

吾欲求而無所不能，而不可得，自謂及顏回、子路而已。

7. The Master said, “Anyone who voluntarily applies discipline to his conduct, I have never refused to teach.”

吾欲求而無所不能，而不可得，自謂及顏回、子路而已。

8. The Master said, “Without a heart seething with rage, you

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15. Ran You (冉有) said, "Is our Master supporting the ruler of Wei (魏)?" Zi Gong said, "OK, I will ask him." He went in and said, "Bo Yi (伯夷) and Shu Qi (叔齐), what kind of men were they?" The Master said, "They were superior men of the olden days." "You mean, they put their grievances behind?" said Zi Gong. The Master said, "They wanted ethical integrity and they got it. What grievance, then?" Zi Gong came out and said, "Our Master is not supporting the ruler of Wei."

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16. The Master said, "To have a simple meal followed by water; and then to lie down resting your head on your bent arm. The joy of life is also there. Unjustly acquired wealth and honour are, for me, just like floating clouds."

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17. The Master said, "If I had a few more years, I could complete the study of the book of changes (周易). I shall then be free from big mistakes."

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18. The Master always talked about the Poems, the Documents and observance of Li. He always talked about all these.

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19. The Duke of She (季康子) asked Zi Lu about Confucius. Zi Lu ignored him. The Master said, "Why didn't you say that he is the kind of man who would forget about eating when he is outraged, forget his worries when he is happy and he does not know that old age will eventually get to him."

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20. The Master said, "I am not a person who knew from birth. I am a person who is fond of the old and who diligently seeks

the knowledge.”

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21. The Master did not talk about supernatural forces and disturbing spirits.

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22. The Master said, "Suppose I am in a group of three men. There is bound to be my teacher. I choose the good one to emulate him. And I choose the bad one to correct myself."

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23. The Master, "Virtues of Heaven are given to me. What can a guy like Huan Tei (桓季) do to me?"

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24. The Master said, "You guys, are you hiding something from me? I don't hide anything from you. I don't do anything without you guys. This is my style."

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25. The Master taught us through his learning, his conduct, his loyalty and his trust in us.

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26. The Master said, "As for the Holy man, I cannot find such a man. But I can find a noble man. As for the Angelic man, I cannot find such a man. But I can find a constant man. There are people who pretend to have it while they don't, pretend to be full while they are empty, pretend to be at ease while they are constrained. They can hardly be constant."

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27. The Master would go fishing but would not use a fishing net. He would go hunting but would not shoot a bird in the nest.

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33. The Master said, "As for erudition, I am incomparable. As

for actually practicing a noble man's conduct, however, there are things I still have not figured out."

34. The Master said, "Sainthood and ethical integrity: how dare I lay claim on such things. But I do endeavour to attain them without finding it loathsome and I teach people without being remiss. That is what I can claim to be doing. Gong Xi Hua (恭喜) said, "That, precisely, is what we pupils cannot learn."

35. The Master was seriously ill. Zi Lu wanted to pray. The Master said, "Is it usual to do so?" "Yes," said Zi Lu, "in a prayer, it is said, 'I pray for thee, to the spirits of the above and of the below, with reverence.'" The Master said, "I have been praying like that for a long while already."

36. The Master said, "Affluence will make you arrogant. Frugality will make you stubborn. It is better to be stubborn than to be arrogant."

37. The Master said, "A noble man has a big heart. The petty and the lowly have endless worries."

38. The Master was warm yet firm. He had authority but he was not ferocious. He was modest and comforting.