

10. In his home town

1. When Confucius was in his home town, he was simple and meek. It looked as if he could barely speak. When he was in an ancestral temple or in a court, he spoke fluently without hesitation. But he was respectful.

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2. In court, speaking to counsellors junior to him, he was frank and straightforward. With counsellors senior to him, he would debate cordially and courteously. When the ruler was present, he was polite and cautious. He was also austere and poised.

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3. A ruler may ask him to receive a guest. When the guest arrives, he would wear a solemn face and tap the floor tile with his foot as a sign of respect. He would greet the guest from where he stood by joining his two hands at his chest. Before as well as after the greeting, his costume was neatly maintained. He would then move forward on his toes in quick steps like a fluttering bird. After the guest has left, he would always report back saying, "The guest has left without looking back."

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4. When entering the gate of a government office, he would always bend himself, as if the gate was not big enough. He would not stand in the middle of the gate. While entering the gate, he would not step on the threshold. When passing by a place housing ancestral tablets, he would wear a solemn face, tap the floor stone with his foot as a sign of respect and his speech would become like that of a feeble man. He would then hold the hem of his lower garment and climb up to the place, bending himself and holding his breath almost as if he was not breathing. Coming out from the hall, as soon as he laid his foot on the first step, he would unwind. One could tell from

7. During purification, he would always rise at dawn, put on his cloth and say the sidereal prayer. During purification, he would always be on a special diet and stay in a different room.

8. He would prefer finely milled rice and thinly sliced meat. When the rice turned bad and began to have a funny taste, when the fish smelled slightly fishy, when the meat was a bit off, he would not eat. When the food was discoloured, he would not eat. When it smelled bad, he would not eat. When it was not piping hot, he would not eat. When it was not served at the right time, he would not eat.

[illegible]

9. If the cushions were not properly laid out, he would not

sit.

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10. While drinking with the local people, only after the senior member has left would he also leave. When the local people were having a ritual to fend off a plague, he would wear his courtly costume and stand at the east side of the step.

[illegible]

11. When he was sending a man to a different country, he would bow twice and see him off. Lord Ji Kang sent him some medicine. He bowed and received it. Then he said, "Qiu is not equal to this. I dare not taste it."

[illegible]

12. His stable was burnt down. He came home from the court. He said, "Was anybody hurt?" He did not ask about the horse.

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13. If a ruler sent him a dish, he would always correct his posture and have a taste of it first. If a ruler sent him raw meat, he would always cook it and eat it while it is hot. If a ruler sent him a live animal, he would always raise it. In attendance during a meal of a ruler, the ruler would set aside some food for the spirits first and then he would also eat. During serious illness, when the ruler was coming to see him, he would lay his head to the east and place the courtly costume on him and tie it with the belt. If a ruler summoned him, without waiting for the carriage to be harnessed, he would set off.

[illegible]

14. When he was inside the Grand Temple, he would ask about

everything.

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15. A friend died. But the deceased had been homeless. He said, "Bring the corpse in my house for a funeral." If it was a friend who sent him a gift, even though it might be a carriage or a horse, as long as it was not the give-away meat used in a sacrificial ceremony, he would not bow.

[illegible]

16. He did not sleep like a corpse. But he did not live in extravagance. If he saw that a man was in a mourning period, even though he knew him very well, he would invariably wear a solemn face. If he saw a man wearing the funeral cap or a blind man, even if the man was in a rag, he would always correct his posture. To those who were press-ganged to hard labour, he showed respect. He paid respect to those who were heavy laden. When he was served with an elaborate meal, he would always show a sign of astonishment and stand up. When there was a big lightening or a violent gale, he would invariably change his face.

[illegible]

17. In climbing onto a carriage, he would always keep himself upright and hold the rope. Once in the carriage, he would not look around inside, he would not tell the driver to go fast, he would not point his finger at things.

[illegible]

18. Alarmed by people, the birds flew up. After circling around, they came down and gathered together. The Master said, Female pheasants in the mountain! It's the right time! It's the right time!" Zi Lu served the bird to the Master. The Master sniffed the dish three times, then he rose.

