

Weekly Tao Spiritual Discussion Holy Teachings

De-Guang Temple, Irvine CA
Pu-Guang Temple, Plano TX
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onegreatdao.org

Four Great Books in Confucius Holy Teaching Important for Our Spiritual Cultivation

Confucius Analects

Book of Great Learning

Doctrine of the Mean

Book of Mencius



子曰：「聽訟，吾猶人也，必也使無訟乎！」無情者不得盡其辭，大畏民志。

Confucius said, "In hearing litigations, I do so just like others. However, I focus on the root cause so people have no litigations." Those who are devoid of the truth will find it impossible to carry out their speeches, out of respect of and stay aligned with people's desire for virtue, truth, and righteousness.



此謂知本。

This is called knowing our root.

Brief Biography of Confucius

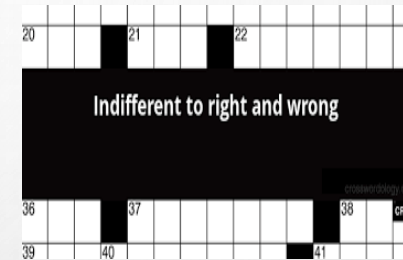


- From “poor and a lowly station” and could not enter government service as easily as young men from prominent families. Had to become “skilled in many menial things”
- Found employment first with a hereditary family whose principal members had for many decades served as chief counselors to the rulers of Lu.
- A series of modest positions — working keeper of granaries and livestock and as district officer.
- Eventually, served in more important appointments in the Lu government, first as minister of works and then as minister of crime.

Deeper Dive: 知本 - Knowing Our Root

因為『本』是根本，『末』是枝葉，能固其根本，則枝葉必然茂盛；By taking care of the root / foundation, an example is that trees will grow tall and strong. 相反的，若是本末倒置，則是非不分，善惡因果定然不彰，訴訟案件則有增無減，此為動亂的根源。Conversely, not focusing on the foundation would lead to confusion and indifference between right or wrong, leading to increasing chaos, tension, and litigation.

唯有以德服人，彰顯輿論，激勵百姓萬民皆有羞恥心，人人履行明德親民的功夫，不敢做出違背良心的事，自然達於祥和安定至善之境，這是聖人舉一喻百的解釋。Hence, sage teachings focus on **virtue development** to awaken our innate wisdom, humanity, and sense of **shame**. Dare not to do anything against our conscience and naturally attain a state of peace, stability, and perfection. This is the wisdom from sage teachings.



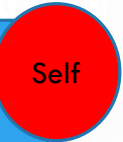
修其身
Cultivating Ourselves



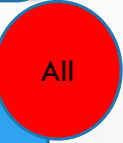
齊其家
Harmonize Own Family



家和万事兴 Prosperity and
Success in Family Affairs



治其國 Govern States
平天下 Virtues and Peace in
World.



Foundation: True Self from
Heavenly Mother | Innate Virtues



Husband and Wife



Parents and Children



What does the holy teaching teach us to better manage this conflict?

Not Part of Our True Self?

SAGE THOUGHTS

禪定 Zen Concentration

Zen: Being separate from external marks
Concentration: Not being confused internally

If you become attached to external marks, your mind will be confused internally. Our True Self is naturally pure, in a natural state of concentration. Confusion arises merely because states are seen and attended to.

If our mind remains unconfused when any state is encountered, that is true concentration.



True Self

Originally pure in itself
Neither produced nor destroyed
Originally complete in itself
Originally without movement
Can produce ten thousand dharmas

1. Take a
Pause.

2. Ack.
Own
Thoughts

3.
Detach &
Introspect

4.
Process
Thoughts

5. Let Go

日久功純
**Practice Makes
Perfect.**

念起即覺
**Be Aware of
Own Thoughts.**

覺而不隨
**Virtuous Deeds
due to Self
Awareness**

Achieve Harmony in One's Family



Husband and Wife
Harmony, Respect &
Faithfulness



Parents and Children
Love, Nurturing &
Filial Piety



Siblings
Precedence &
Fraternal Love



Rooted in Self Cultivation

A man with a shaved head and a white tilak on his forehead is sitting on a light-colored sofa. He is wearing an orange short-sleeved shirt. The background shows a modern interior with a large, faceted, metallic-looking sphere on a dark grey pedestal. The lighting is soft and even.

**“WHO” TO
“WHAT” CAN
TAKE YOU FROM**

HATE TO LOVE

Deeper Dive

子曰：「聽訟，吾猶人也，必也使無訟乎！」 Confucius said, "In hearing litigations, I do so just like others. However, I focus on the root cause so people have no litigations."

Paraphrase: 孔子曾說：「關於在法院聽取百姓的訴訟案件，以及判斷爭論的是非曲直、青紅皂白，我也是跟別人一樣，能夠找出爭訟的癥結所在，再從根本上去圓滿解決，但是最根本的辦法，讓天下的百姓，上下和睦，人人知禮義，尚廉恥，明白是非，沒有訟案事件，才是根本最上策之道。」因為無訟為『本』，善聽訟為『末』。 When hearing litigations in court to render rulings, I follow the same process as others in following the evidence and identifying the root cause to resolve disputes. But, the **best method is to educate people to have a sense of propriety and righteousness, have a sense of shame, and know right from wrong, with no disputes to be resolved in court. Because having no disputes to be resolved in court is the root and conducting the hearings to rule on disputes in court is the outcome.**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJB3cXsYYak>

Deeper Dive

人本有五常之德，是非之心，智之端也，人既有智慧，對於是非善惡應該很清楚，為何還有訟呢？

Mankind, as children of Heavenly Mother, have all the virtues, including knowing right from wrong from innate wisdom. With our innate wisdom, why do we still end up litigating?

都是因為自己私心偏見，貪心妄想，不檢討自己是非曲直之故。

Reasons include our selfishness, prejudice, greed, delusion, and not reflecting, admitting, or correcting own mistakes.

Why a Deserted Temple





Moral of the Story



Many disputes are related to desires for fame and fortune.

Many contention are related to ego.

《老子-道德經第三章 Lao-Zi - Tao Te Ching chapter 3》

不尚賢,使民不爭

Do not single out the nobility for praise,
to ensure that the people never contend.

Thoughts for Today

《Holy Teacher》

Cultivating Tao with a harmonious mentality, one is being selfless.

Propagating Tao with a harmonious mentality, one is not focused on appearance / results.

Harmony brings peace; with peace, people bring good rapport for one another and become spiritually connected to Heaven and Earth.

Compassionate people are with peace. Inhumane people are with disharmony.

Deeper Dive

明理者，必須以德感人、明禮義、知廉恥、敦親睦鄰、明德親民，社稷自然祥和安定，則訟不待聽而無訟也，此謂知本。 Knowing root means that we touch others with our virtues, understand propriety and righteousness, know right from wrong, and be a good friend and neighbor, so peace & stability would prevail in society with no disputes to be resolved in litigations.

要知道天地賞罰分明，善惡報應絲毫不爽，順理則存，逆理者亡，自己有理就須心平氣和，無理就要道歉了事，則舉國上下和睦，相敬溫馨，最後必定使百姓無爭訟，過著祥和安定的生活。 Understand Heavenly Mother is fair in rewards and punishments, with karma happening at the appropriate time. People who live life in accord to Tao will thrive. People who live life contradicting Tao will suffer. Hence, we should live our life with morals and a calm heart, and apologize for own mistakes to avoid misunderstandings, leading to peace and stability in community, society, state, and country.

Era of Peace (1125 BC - 1051 BC)



周文王 (? - 前1046) 明人绘



Moral of the Story

Treat others as how you want to be treated.

Letting go of ego helps preserve peace.

People are either famous for being virtuous or unethical.



Thoughts for Today

《老子-道德經 第五十七章 Lao-Zi - Tao Te Ching chapter 57》



Govern a country with upright integrity

Deploy the military with surprise tactics

Take the world with noninterference

How do I know this is so?

With the following:

When there are many restrictions in the world,

The people become more impoverished.

When people have many sharp weapons,

The country becomes more chaotic.

When people have many clever tricks,

More strange things occur.

The more laws are posted,

The more robbers and thieves there are.

Therefore the sage says:

I take unattached action, and the people transform themselves.

I prefer quiet, and the people right themselves.

I do not interfere, and the people enrich themselves.

I have no desires, and the people simplify themselves.

Deeper Dive

無情者不得盡其辭，大畏民志。 Those who are devoid of the truth will find it impossible to carry out their speeches, out of respect of and stay aligned with people's desire for virtue, truth, and righteousness.

Paraphrase: 在辦理訟案時，要使那些虛偽不誠實的人，不敢也不能夠，說盡他的謊言，說盡他那沒有道理的話，來欺己欺人。 **When hearing arguments during litigations, make the hypocritical and dishonest people not dare or be able to spread their lies or baseless statements to deceive themselves or others.**

更重要的是，要讓那些埋沒良心的人，皆能畏服在明德光輝處所發揮出公理正義的輿論下，而不敢做出違背良心，損人利己的事，因為「大畏民志」為本，「不得盡其辭」為末，使天下百姓皆能明禮義，尚廉恥，心存天理良心行事，而無訟案可發生，這便是修身的根本。 **More importantly, make the ones who have deviated from their conscience be aware of the power of public sentiments centered on virtues, truth, and righteousness and dare them not act against their conscience to cheat others in benefiting themselves. Respect and staying aligned with public sentiments on virtue, truth, and righteousness is the root, and daring them to not spread fallacy is the outcome. Hence, cultivating oneself is the root leading to peace and stability in society.**



SUMMARY OF KEY TAKEAWAYS



Our True Self is naturally pure, in a natural state of concentration. If you become attached to external marks, your mind will be confused internally.

Focus on the Foundation, which is Sustained Tao Cultivation for Self, for peace, happiness, and harmony in ourselves, family, and community.

Live our life in accordance to Tao to prosper. Extend and help awaken others in our family and community to promote virtue, compassion, and harmony in the world.

**Introduce Precious Tao to Family and Friends.
Let's All Cultivate Together to Build a Better Future.**



*THE JOURNEY OF TAO CULTIVATION IS OPEN TO ALL.
MAY YOUR JOURNEY BE FILLED WITH PEACE,
WISDOM, COMPASSION, AND HAPPINESS.*