

If you look into your own heart, and you find nothing wrong there, what is there to worry about? What is there to fear?
--Confucius

CHANGE

To put the world in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must cultivate our personal life; and to cultivate our personal life, we must first set our hearts right.

Confucius

Wheresoever you go,
go with all your heart.

Confucius

"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand."—Confucius

Without an acquaintance with the rules of propriety, it is impossible for the character to be established.
—Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC), The Confucian Analects

Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance.

Author: Confucius

It is only the wisest and the very stupidest who cannot change.

CONFUCIUS

In a country well governed, poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed, wealth is something to be ashamed of.

CONFUCIUS

What the superior man seeks is in himself. What the mean man seeks is in others.

CONFUCIUS

Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.

—Confucius

An oppressive government is more to be feared than a tiger.
—Confucius



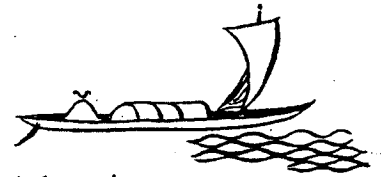
He who is
Really kind
Can never
Be unhappy;
He who is
Really wise
Can never
Be confused;
He who is
Really brave
Is never
Afraid.

CONFUCIUS †



When you see
A worthy person,
Endeavor to
Emulate him,
When you see
An unworthy person,
Then examine
Your
Inner Self!

CONFUCIUS †



Man has
Three ways of
Acting wisely:
Firstly, on
Meditation,
This is the noblest;
Secondly, on
Imitation,
This is the easiest; and
Thirdly, on
Experience:
This is the bitterest.

CONFUCIUS †

A superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.
—Confucius

He who learns but does not think, is lost! He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger.
—Confucius

To know what is right and not to do it is the worst cowardice.
—Confucius

Every truth has four corners: as a teacher I give you one corner, and it is for you to find the other three.
Confucius

“Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” —Confucius

The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home.

—Confucius

When you have only two pennies left in the world, buy a loaf of bread with one, and a lily with the other.

- Chinese Proverb

You cannot prevent the birds of sorrow from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair.

- Chinese Proverb

As the bird feels about the net that entangles it, so do men feel about those who rule them.

CHINESE PROVERB

Keep a green tree alive in your heart and a songbird may come to sing there.

- Chinese Proverb

A fool judges people by the presents they give him.
Chinese Proverb

Monday, February 23: "When the sacred texts contradict the search for peace and justice," dharma master Cheng Yen explained to a group of government officials, "the sacred text must be re-interpreted." That's the Chinese version of not taking God's name in vain.

Chittenden 2/04

A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.

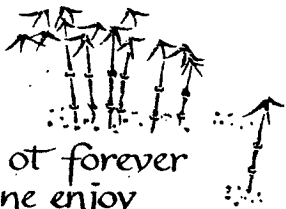
Chinese Proverb

He that is afraid to shake the dice will never throw a six.

- Chinese Proverb

Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still.

- Chinese Proverb



Not forever
 Can one enjoy
 Stillness and peace.
 But misfortune and
 Destruction
 Are not final.
 When the grass
 Has been burnt
 By the fire of the steppe,
 It will grow anew
 In summer.

WISDOM FROM THE MONGOLIAN STEPPE

†

"Sow a thought, reap an act
 Sow an act, reap a habit
 Sow a habit, reap a character
 Sow a character, reap a destiny."

CHINESE PROVERB

Handwritten Chinese characters

Do you
 Need
 Proof of
 GOD?
 Does one
 Light a
 Torch
 To see the
 Sun?

ORIENTAL WISDOM †

Knitting Chinese

Many years ago my wife was to knitting what Tiger Woods is to golf. She designed exotic patterns with ease. There was an occasion when we had lunch in a real Chinese restaurant (only one person spoke partial English, all menus were in Chinese). When she saw the hand-written menu she was so impressed with the calligraphy she tucked the menu in her purse. Some months later I saw the result, a stunning white sweater with the Chinese symbols hand-stitched down the front.

She received compliments galore until one cocktail party when we met a distinguished Chinese physician who asked my wife where she got the symbols. He then wanted to know if she knew what they meant.

"I'm afraid to ask," she said, "but tell me anyway."

Even she had to laugh when he told her they read, "This is a cheap dish—but good."

By way of Pastor Tim's CleanLaugh List To subscribe go to:
<http://www.cybersatlists.org>

"Tension is who you think you should be. Relaxation is who you are."

--Chinese Proverb

Look within! ... The secret is inside you.
 - Hui-neng

There's a Chinese proverb that says, "If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow."

As the bird feels about
 the net that entangles it,
 so do men feel about those
 who rule them.

CHINESE PROVERB

He who does not know where he
 is heading will go farthest.

CHINESE PROVERB

The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones.

—Chinese proverb

If There Is..... Chinese proverb



"If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world."

Honey in his mouth, knives in his heart.

CHINESE PROVERB

Do not use a hatchet to remove a fly from your friend's forehead.

CHINESE PROVERB

O Lord, convert the world—and begin with me.

A CHINESE STUDENT'S PRAYER

A journey of a thousand **miles** begins with a single step. —*Chinese proverb*

Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand.

"Chinese proverb"

If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow.
— Chinese Proverb

MAKE YOUR MARK COUNT

A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.

CHINESE PROVERB

The sages do not consider that making no mistakes is a blessing. They believe, rather, that the great virtue of man lies in his ability to correct his mistakes and continually to make a new man of himself.

WANG YANG-MING

The secret to happiness

If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap.

If you want happiness for a day, go fishing.

If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune.

If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody.

— *Chinese Proverb*

Dig the well before you are thirsty.

—Chinese proverb

Communist China's Confucius connection

WHEN the 13th national congress of the Chinese Communist Party convenes on Oct. 25, "rejuvenation" will be the official theme. A new generation of leaders is expected to succeed the old guard in China's Politburo. The future will certainly be the prevailing tense.

But just as in the United States, where power is shifting into new hands in both parties, the past remains a factor in the future. Americans are simultaneously looking ahead to the elections of '88 and reappraising the Constitution in its 200th year.

In China, before the Communist Party gets to hold its congress, there has already been a kind of congress on Confucius, assessing the special meaning and importance this philosopher still possesses for his country 2,465 years after his death.

While conceding that the thaws of the "Hundred Flowers" period in the late '50s and the "Cultural Revolution" of the mid-'60s ended in deep freezes, the China-watcher writing under the name of "Simon de Beaufort" concluded that throughout the past decades of "revolutionary change, China still maintains important parts of the oldest intellectual and cultural tradition."

Even the writings of Chairman Mao, de Beaufort pointed out 10 years ago, "contained as many references to Confucian treatises as to Stalin dissertations."

Politics (and journalism) tend to concentrate on the exciting and often forgettable power struggles of the moment. In scribbling profiles of the new players, with box scores on who's hard-line Marxist and who's less hard-line, the reports out of China later this month are likely to give short shrift to Confucius.

Yet a cultural or even a political reading of China in '87 that neglects Confucianism may be almost as delinquent as a reading of Iran that neglects Islamic fundamentalism.

Nations are not so much pure identities as the peculiar sum of their contradictions, and China is no exception. The fact that Confucius is still a presence to reckon with underlines the paradox that the Chinese, even in the midst of their revolution, are still a traditional society.

Indeed, what else did Confucius teach but the virtues of tradition? — arguing that destiny consists in "carrying out the unfinished work of our forefathers and transmitting their

achievements to posterity."

Unlike many traditionalists, Confucius believed in tradition for the sake of the individual rather than for the sake of society. And so Marxism, with its emphasis on a collective society and a system so perfect nobody will have to be good, runs squarely into Confucius' emphasis on the moral human being. He who would bring order to the nation, Confucius said, must first create order in his family; he who would bring order to his family must first find harmony within himself. Only good men produce good government — this is the essence of Confucianism.

In words that must sound quaint and quaint in China — and everywhere else on the political scene — Confucius declared: "If a man enters public life, he does not change from what he was in private life." One should not deceive others; but above all, one should not betray oneself. In the final balancing between the individual and the state, Confucius came down firmly on the side of the individual. "A man may be able to put a country in order," he said, "and still he may not be able to find the central clue to



his moral being" — which, according to Confucius, is the goal of life.

What does this have to do with the wheeling-and-dealing that will occur at the party congress toward the end of the month? No more, perhaps, than the wheeling-and-dealing over the Republican and Democratic nominations for president has to do with the question from the Sermon on the Mount: "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" That is to say, very little. But "very little" is not the same as "nothing." And who could be so cynical as to presume that ancient ideals, still buried deep in millions of hearts, make no difference at all?

A Wednesday and Friday column

Confucius is making a comeback

"Do your homework!" by Paul Mooney. Newsweek, May 27, 2002 (Vol 139, No 21). Page 51. Topic: CHINA. See also Jy01-31a.

China is turning once again to its most famous moral philosopher, Confucius, as it searches for meaning beyond the Communist Party and money. Scorned during the Cultural Revolution, Confucianism and Confucian education are popular among modern Chinese who want to reestablish traditional Chinese values.

Confucian education requires children to learn and recite moral dictums by rote. "They don't necessarily understand what they're reciting, but gradually it will have an impact on their thinking," says Yuan Shiqui, an official at the National Studies School in Beijing. Many parents attest that their children have become more polite after attending Confucian classes.

Confucianism's revival is turning into a powerful cultural force. Real estate developers have established Confucian schools in their apartment complexes to draw young families. The government has established a \$25 million Confucian studies center. A statue of Confucius was erected at People's University in Beijing.

Not everyone believes the resurrection of Confucianism is the best thing for China. Many education experts say the problem with China's education is too much rote memorization, not too little. Others say Confucianism suppresses creative thought. Still others see the government's tacit support as utilitarian. Don Wyatt, a Chinese history expert, claims that the government is using Confucianism to create a generation of citizens subservient to the Communist Party.

Still, many Chinese see the new openness to Confucianism as a government acknowledgment that Marxism-Leninism and Maoism are bankrupt philosophies and that China must learn to value its cultural and philosophical heritage. ☺

5/02
CXX