

細講弟子規 第十集

Confucius' Teachings On Building A Happy Life (10)

- a foundation for Mahayana Buddhism practice

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Persist with Aspiration and Be Grateful for People Who Help You to Succeed

諸位朋友，我們接著上一堂的課程：

Hello, my friends! Let's continue from where we stopped in the previous lesson,

【居有常。業無變。】

“I will maintain a daily routine and persist with my aspiration.”

所以我們的學業，我們的事業、家業要好好經營，讓父母能夠安心。

We should manage our study, career, and family well so that our parents will have peace of mind.

剛剛也提到，行業應該要選擇自己適合的，然後盡心盡力去發展，

We also mentioned in the previous lesson that we should choose a suitable job and devote our efforts into developing it.

絕對不能好高騖遠。

We must not aim too high without considering our abilities.

很多人在這個時代當中常常都要想快速致富，

In this era, many people always think of getting rich quickly.

其實天下哪有白吃的午餐。

However, no pain, no gain; there is no such thing as a free lunch.

當有這種很想要快速致富的念頭，所謂「欲速則不達」，

When wanting to become rich quickly, we will probably end up as an old proverb describes, “Haste makes waste.”

往往在他換工作當中，其實他的心非常的躁動。

During the time of changing jobs, one's mind is usually restless.

一個人心躁動的時候，會不會選對抉擇？

With such a state of mind, can we make the right decisions?

很困難。當他換了工作，很可能會讓父母又開始擔心了。

It's very difficult! In addition, our parents will start to worry during the time we change jobs.

再來，他每換一個工作，事實上對他的社會信用都是一種影響。

Furthermore, each job change will actually affect our social credibility;

本來經營好了一些人脈，他這麼一動，

the social network built in the previous job will be impaired.

比方說開醫院，他是這個醫院很有名的醫師。

For example, a well-known doctor of a hospital wanted to open a new hospital of his own.

雖然來給他看的病人很多，可是我們要想一想，

It is true that he was much sought after by many patients, yet let us think about it:

不只是因為我們醫術好，而是醫院有很好的長官在帶領，有這些董事會才成就了我們這個工作機會。

His popularity is not just because of his good medical skills, but also due to the superb leadership and management of that hospital.

我們也要念著在這個醫院已經這麼長的時間，這段時間之內都是這麼多人成就了我們工作的穩定。

We should feel grateful for the job stability that so many people have given us for such a long time.

所以不能只想到自己很不錯，要有大發展，

We should not be complacent with our own popularity, thinking of only developing our own career;

然後馬上就在本來的醫院對面又開一家，自己來做老闆，

so we open a new hospital opposite the old one in order to become a boss.

這樣的作法很有可能會失去什麼？人和。

With this way of dealing with matters, what do we possibly lose? The harmony amongst people.

又有可能還帶了其他的同事一起出去開。

To make things worse, we might even encourage some of our colleagues to join us.

我們做人要穩紮穩打，不可躁動。

We must maintain a steady mind and must not be restless when dealing with interpersonal relationships;

而且好聚更重要的要好散，

a happy departure is more important than the good time of being together.

假如沒有好散，這些怨氣都將阻礙你往後事業的發展。

Without a happy departure, the accumulated resentments would hinder our future career development.

當我們穩紮穩打，讓這些機會水到渠成。

When we go steadily step by step, the opportunity will come in place naturally.

而生命當中的財富，絕對不是你去爭可以爭得到的，

We must understand that one's wealth in his life is definitely not obtained by fighting for it.

俗話說「命裡有時終須有，命裡無時莫強求」，

As an adage goes, "If it is destined to be yours, it will eventually be yours; if it is not within your destiny, don't force it."

要怎麼收穫，最重要要先怎麼栽。

Importantly, we must understand 'You reap what you sow'.

我們在前幾天課裡面也有提到，真正財富的真因是要多行布施，

We have also learned in the previous lessons that the true cause of wealth acquisition is the practice of wealth-dana*. (*Dana, giving. One of the three donations for Buddhist practice: wealth-dana, Dharma-dana, and fearless-dana.)

多為這個社會付出，自然財布施就能夠得到財富。

By contributing more to society through wealth-dana, we will naturally acquire wealth.

像香港的首富李嘉誠，他每年捐的款項都是非常的大，

For example, the richest man in Hong Kong, Mr. Kashing Li, donates enormous amounts of money every year.

我曾經到汕頭去演講，他是汕頭人，他們都是捐很多公共設施回饋鄉里。

As he came from Shantou, Guangdong, he repays his hometown by helping to improve a lot of its infrastructure.

所以，我們面對工作也要穩紮穩打去經營，不可好高騖遠，不可太躁動。

We should perform our job in a steady manner, restraining ourselves from being restless and setting goals too high;

因為我們一動，就會牽動整個你身旁的親友，我們做事愈穩健就是讓他們愈安心。

because our family members will surely be affected once we become restless. So, the steadier we are at work, the more at ease they would feel.

Do the Right Thing Even if It Seems Trivial

我們來看下一句，我們一起把它念一遍：

Let's move on to the next line and read it together,

【事雖小。勿擅為。苟擅為。子道虧。物雖小。勿私藏。苟私藏。親心傷。】。

“Even though a matter might be trivial with little consequences, I must not do it based on what I like; for I would undermine the duty of being a child if I do. Even though an object might be small, I must not hide it secretly; for my parents' hearts will be grieved if I do.”

『事雖小，勿擅為，苟擅為，子道虧』，

Even though a matter might be trivial with little consequences, I must not do it based on what I like; for I would undermine the duty of being a child if I do.

其實很多的大善都是從小善做起，

In fact, many great virtuous acts begin with the practice of small good deeds,

很多的大惡也是從小惡積累上來。

whereas a lot of grave offences are also accumulated from small misdeeds.

所以劉備給他的孩子有一句很重要的勉勵，

That's why Liu Bei (*Liu Bei, 161-223CE, was a warlord in the late Eastern Han dynasty in the Three Kingdoms period.) gave his children a very important teaching,

「勿以善小而不為，勿以惡小而為之」。

“Don't stop doing a good deed just because it is insignificant; don't commit a bad deed even if it is puny.”

孩子在家庭當中的一言一行，你都不能苟且，

If we are too lenient with our children's speech and behavior at home,

太隨便了，往後出去就會有犯大過失的可能性。

they would possibly commit grave offences when they enter society in the future.

當然，要讓孩子「勿擅為」，首先我們家長要「勿擅為」，要先當榜樣給孩子看。

Of course, if we want our children to abstain from misdeeds, we parents should first lead by example.

比方說在看電視的時候，能不能把腳抬到桌上？

For instance, is it proper to put our feet up on the table when watching TV?

雖然是一件小事，給孩子的就是很隨便的示範。

Although it is a trivial matter, it gives our children a bad example of slacking off.

A Child Teaches His Teacher How to Drive?

比方說開車出去，記得我們在深圳有個老師，那天他剛好帶著一個小朋友五歲多。

Here is an anecdote. A teacher of our center in Shenzhen happened to drive a five-year-old child back home one day.

一邊開著車，剛好遇到紅綠燈，他就停下來，

She stopped her car when the traffic light turned red.

這個小朋友看到老師停下來，就跟他說：老師，你不用停，你直接開過來，然後再轉過來。

The child then said to her, “Teacher, you don't need to stop, you can take a small right turn and drive across.”

從哪裡學的？他媽媽是警察。

Where did he learn it from? His mother is a policewoman.

所以「事雖小，勿擅為」。

You see, we must not act based on what we like even though a matter might be trivial with little consequences.

這位老師聽了以後，也很有敏感度，這個一定要趕快跟家長溝通，

This teacher was very alert and felt that she needed to talk to the child's parents immediately.

你孩子還沒建立對錯的判斷，我們都做錯誤的示範，那還得了！

Before a child can discern right from wrong, we have given the wrong demonstration, how startling it is!

這個老師講話也很有藝術，

This teacher was very skillful and tactful in her speech;

打過去就跟他的家長說，他說：你的兒子今天教我開車。

she called the mother and said, "Your son taught me how to drive today."

他媽媽馬上就笑出來，自己心裡有數。

Upon hearing this, the mother instantly burst into laughter as she knew what the teacher meant.

所以諸位朋友，我們為人長輩不能知錯還犯錯，這樣就很不好。

Dear friends, as elders, we must not wittingly make mistakes in front of children. This is certainly not good.

從很多細節之處，我們要有敏感度，要給孩子當榜樣。

We should raise our sensibility from many details to ensure a good example for children.

當你有這樣的態度，保證你會突然覺得自己的德行、學問也在與日俱增。

When you adopt such a positive attitude, I am sure you will find that your virtues and wisdom would improve daily.

Abstain From Causing Danger for Others

對於孩子有很多的事我們要多多叮嚀，

There are many matters which parents must frequently remind their children about.

尤其在安全方面，只要這些動作會造成生命的危險，一定要多多提醒。

Especially involving safety issues, so long as the actions endanger lives, we must remind children often!

而且有時候還不能只提醒一次，還要不厭其煩。

Not only should we remind them often but tirelessly emphasize the importance of these issues.

哪些方面要提醒？諸位爸爸媽媽，哪些方面要提醒？

What aspects need to be reminded? Dear parents, what aspects must we remind children?

過馬路；這個一來是安全，二來也是守規矩的態度。

Well, such as crossing the street! Firstly, this is to raise children's awareness on safety; secondly, to instill an attitude of obeying the rules.

所以只要是安全問題或守規矩問題，絕對要去遵守。

So, we must follow the rules as long as they involve safety issues.

像常常寒暑假期間都會發生一些意外，

During summer and winter vacations, some accidents often occur.

小孩子玩鞭炮造成火災，小孩子相約去游泳，又沒有「出必告，反必面」，

It could be either a fire accident caused by children playing with firecrackers or children drowned while swimming without telling their parents.

所以往往老祖宗說「樂不可極」，樂極生悲。

The ancients said, "We must not pursue pleasure to its extreme, for the highest degree of pleasure leads to sorrow."

這些要從小叮嚀，

With things like this, parents should remind children often when they're young.

孩子假如常常這樣叮嚀，他對於安全的敏感度就特別高。

If we often remind children to take safety measures, they would have a much higher awareness of safety.

比方說在端熱水的時候，你就要讓他小心一點，這樣就能減少很多意外的發生。

For instance, when a child is carrying a cup of hot water, parents should remind him to be careful with it.

In doing so, we can reduce many avoidable accidents.

除了要注意自己的安全之外，

Apart from teaching our children to look out for their own safety,

也要提醒孩子，只要對別人會造成危險的動作，絕對不能做。

we must also remind them to refrain from any acts that might cause danger to others.

當他有這樣的態度，他就會時時觀照到，我的一言一行有沒有造成別人的傷害。

When they have developed such an attitude, they would constantly reflect on their words and actions to see whether they have caused any harm to others.

我記得有一次看到一篇報導，一個孩子因為好玩，他的同學要坐這個椅子，他馬上把椅子拉開。

I remember reading an article about a child who, just for fun, pulled out his classmate's chair right at the time when he was about to sit down.

他的同學沒注意到直接就坐下去，脊椎著地很嚴重，造成終身癱瘓。

When that classmate fell straight down on the floor, his spine was badly injured and he became paralyzed for life. Paralyzed for life!

藉由這個例子我們會機會教育，就告訴學生，你看，一個小小的動作，造成別人這麼大的痛苦。

I often use this example to tell my students, "You see, a small action has caused others such excruciating pain and suffering.

幾個人痛苦？你看這位同學，他不知道要多少數十年的歲月要在床上熬過。

How many people have suffered? Do you know how many decades this classmate has to endure the torment of lying in bed?

小朋友你自己去躺看看，給你躺三天，你就全身不舒服。

My children, you can try to lie in bed, let's say for three days, I bet your whole body would feel very uncomfortable.

不只他要痛苦，還有人比他更痛苦，他的父母；

Other than the suffering of this child, there are some people who suffer even more than he does; these people are his parents.

看到一個孩子養了十多歲，居然變成這個樣子，

They have painstakingly raised the child for over ten years, but he ended up like this.

每次看，相信都是一種煎熬。

Every time his parents see him, I believe it is a great torture for them.

所以對父母也是一生的傷害。

Therefore, this incident has also ruined his parents' entire lives.

一個人不只父母會關心他，所有這些疼惜他的親友都會非常的傷心。

Each of us are loved not only by our own parents but by our family members and friends, they will all be heartbroken.

所以諸位小朋友，你看，一個小的動作就造成了這麼多人的痛苦，這種事絕對不能做。

Dear children, a small action like this has caused so many people to suffer. This kind of thing should never be done."

所以，「事雖小，勿擅為」，這是安全方面的問題。

So, it is important to remember this teaching, "Even though a matter might be trivial with little consequences, I must not do it based on what I like." This is from the aspect of safety.

Observe the Rules and Regulations of Society

在規矩方面，我們也要告訴孩子要守規矩，

Regarding the aspect of rules and regulations, we should also tell our children to observe them.

「事雖小，勿擅為」。不可以隨便丟垃圾，

For instance, trivial things like throwing rubbish in public areas, we must not do it.

丟垃圾看起來好像是一件小小的事情，但是當丟垃圾已經成為習慣，那將不只是丟家裡的臉，還有可能會丟國家的臉。

Littering may seem to be a puny matter, however, once it becomes a habit, it not only brings shame to one's family but perhaps to one's country.

曾經也聽過，爬山的時候，假如你不知道路怎麼爬？

I once heard a joke which says that when you go hiking and have no idea which trail to take...

怎麼爬？跟著垃圾的地方爬。

What should you do? You could simply follow the trail with trash.

這個看起來是方便，我們往更深去想，

It sounds seemingly convenient, but when we think deeper, it is indeed the sorrow of human behavior.

那是人行為的悲哀，不只沒有羞恥心，對於大自然也不懂得愛護。

This phenomenon indicates that we not only lack a sense of shame but also do not cherish our Mother Nature.

幾千年的中國人有沒有這樣？有沒有？

Over thousands of years of history, have humans acted like this? Have we?

幾千年的中國人接受聖賢教誨，

For thousands of years, people have learned to respect Mother Nature from receiving the sages' teachings.

「天為父，地為母」，

As the ancient Chinese believed, "Heaven is the Father and Earth is the Mother."

要愛惜這一片長養我們的大地后土。

We should cherish this fertile land that has been nurturing us, and we must protect it from pollution.

所以，縱使是丟垃圾也不可以擅為。

So, even trivial things like throwing rubbish, we should never do it based on what we like.

在網路當中，曾經報導過三個新聞，在網路上。

Once there were three pieces of news published on the internet.

第一個在美國的珍珠港，美國的珍珠港它的垃圾桶上面都會寫一行中國字。珍珠港是講英文，

The first one was about a notice written on the lid of the trash bins in Pearl Harbor in the USA. It was written in Chinese, yet people in Pearl Harbor speak English, right?

上面寫著「請把垃圾丟在此」，寫給誰看？

The sign stated, "Please throw your trash here!" Well, to whom was the sign written for?

第二個在泰國的皇宮，也都是國際性的旅遊重點，

The second news was about a notice found in the restroom of The Grand Palace in Thailand, an international tourist spot.

在廁所上面也寫了一行字，「便後請沖廁」，

The note in the restroom went, "Please flush the toilet after use."

也是用中國字寫的，寫給誰看？寫給中國人看。

It was also written in Chinese. Again, to whom was it written for? For Chinese people.

在巴黎的聖母院，也寫了一行中國字，「請勿大聲喧嘩」。

Inside Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, there was also a notice written in Chinese, "Please do not speak loudly."

這些都是小事，一個是講話，一個是沖廁所，一個是丟垃圾，

Well, all of these seem to be small matters. One is about our speech, another is about flushing the toilet, and the third is about littering.

三件小事已經形成一個大事，什麼大事？

The three small matters had turned into a great matter. What great matter is it?

中國人的臉已經被這些小動作丟到全世界去了。

The Chinese people's reputation has been tarnished all over the world.

我們跟小孩子講這些事，小孩會說：老師，把它擦掉。

When I told children about these news, some of them responded, "Teacher, just erase them."

我說怎麼擦？一個人你做錯事，人家要講你，你把他的嘴巴捂住，人家就不講了嗎？

I said, "How?" When we have indeed done something wrong, they want to condemn us, can we stop them just by shutting their mouths?

你捂得住一個人的嘴，捂得住全部人的嘴嗎？

Even if we managed to shut one person's mouth, could we do so to everyone else?

不可能！我們要感到羞恥，不能丟自己國家的臉，從自己好好開始做起，

Impossible! We must raise our sense of shame and start the measure from ourselves to avoid our country's reputation from being tarnished.

不要亂丟垃圾，處處維護公共衛生，公共安寧。

Do not litter! We must do our best to maintain public hygiene and peacefulness at all times, in all places.

Having A Sense of Shame

諸位朋友，我們再思考一下，你去過泰國皇宮嗎？

My friends, let's think again, have you ever been to The Grand Palace in Thailand?

你們都這麼有福報，都去過！

Wow, so many of you have been there. You guys are so fortunate!

你去過法國巴黎嗎？我相信大半的中國人都沒去過，能去的都是哪些中國人？

Have you ever been to Paris? I believe the majority of the Chinese have not. What kind of people can afford to visit these places?

留學生、很有財富的人，社會地位都不差的。

They are students who are studying abroad, the considerably wealthy people, those with certain social status.

有沒有看過一個鄉下的農夫去法國聖母院？

Have you ever seen a Chinese rural farmer in the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris?

很少！所以統統是社會有地位又是高學歷的人，做出來的行為居然是連生活的規範都沒有做好。

Very seldom, right? Yet these people who have social status who are highly educated do not even adhere to the norms of daily life.

這個也透露了學歷不代表教養，學歷不代表學會做人，

It reveals that academic qualifications do not represent one's upbringing and their ability to conduct themselves properly.

而教育最重要的，就是要教導一個人做人、做事的正確態度才是。

The most important role of education is to teach a person the right attitude of interacting with others and handling matters.

所以學校裡面假如沒有辦法教這個，更重要的家庭教育要先把基礎扎好才是。

If the schools could not feasibly teach these attitudes, then its foundation must be firmly established in the family.

其實學校的老師都很盡心盡力在教,

In fact, the school teachers are doing their best to teach,

但是因為他們一個人要面對幾十個孩子, 確實不容易。

but it is indeed not easy for them because every teacher has to take care of so many students.

唯有家長非常積極跟老師多配合, 孩子的生活行為就很容易循規蹈矩。

Only when parents and guardians actively collaborate with school teachers, can children then easily learn to observe the rules and regulations.

所以, 在安全方面、在規矩方面, 都要謹記「事雖小, 勿擅為」;

So, in the aspects of safety and rules, we must keep in mind this teaching: Even though a matter might be trivial with little consequences, I must not do it based on what I like;

假如做了, 「苟擅為, 子道虧」,

for I will undermine the duty of being a child if I do.

剛剛我們當炎黃子孫的職責也是虧損。

We will also undermine our duty as descendants of Emperors Yan and Huang*. (*BCE 2719-2599, they united tribes and started the Chinese civilization)

小時候特別怕別人對我們說: 你這個行為真沒家教!

When I was little, I was most afraid to hear others commenting about me, "Your behavior shows that you had a poor upbringing."

往往聽到「真沒家教」, 不管我們在做什麼, 馬上會怎麼樣? 變的很收斂, 因為生怕自己的行為讓父母蒙羞;

Whenever I heard this remark, whatever I was doing then, I would immediately behave myself for the fear that my behavior would disgrace my parents.

「身有傷, 貽親憂」, 「德有傷」就「貽親羞」, 所以羞恥心對一個人非常重要。

"When my body is hurt, my parents will be worried; if my virtues are compromised, my parents will feel ashamed." So, having a sense of shame is imperative to a person.

Even Though an Object Might Be Small, I Must Not Hide It Secretly

我們看下一句, 『物雖小, 勿私藏, 苟私藏, 親心傷』。

Let's see the next phrase. "Even though an object might be small, I must not hide it secretly; for my parents' hearts will be grieved if I do."

小孩子他還沒有建立是非判斷的時候, 有時候會隨手拿東西, 他有時候是覺得好玩。

Before a child acquires the ability to discern right from wrong, he would sometimes casually take others' things, thinking it is fun.

所以做父母的養育孩子確確實實要多用心,

As parents, we must pay more attention to raising our children.

因為孩子做一些不好的行為, 會馬上表現在哪裡? 臉上, 他會心虛。

When a child has done something wrong, he would feel guilty and his feeling would immediately be shown on his face.

有位母親剛好察覺今天孩子回來的臉色不大一樣,

A mother once noticed her child looked a bit different from normal days when he returned from school.

她就去翻翻他的書包, 結果發現裡面有幾顆蘋果。奇怪, 怎麼會有幾顆蘋果? 馬上問自己的孩子。

She then went to check his schoolbag and found a few apples in it. She felt strange and asked her child right away.

當然孩子可能一下子覺得反應不過來，也很緊張，就支支吾吾的；後來就招了，

The child had done something wrong and was very nervous when being questioned by his mother. He stammered in the beginning, but confessed later.

跟幾位同學經過水果店順手就拿了。

He said that he and his classmates were passing by a fruit stall on the way home and had casually taken the fruits.

其實他不見得是要吃，是幾個同學一窩蜂，那個氣氛讓他覺得好玩。

Actually, they were not really keen to eat the fruits but just took them for fun under peer pressure.

這位母親二話不說，馬上帶著這個孩子到水果店去，

Without a word, the mother immediately took him to the fruit stall.

到的時候先跟老闆鞠個躬，然後跟他道歉，

When they arrived, the mother bowed deeply to the shopkeeper and apologized to him.

老闆還在忙，也不知道發生什麼事。

The shopkeeper was still busy with his work and had no idea what had happened.

她說：我的孩子拿了你的幾顆蘋果。

The mother said, "My child had taken a few apples of yours."

這個老闆還覺得沒什麼關係。

The shopkeeper said, "It's ok, no big deal."

媽媽就把錢付給他，然後要求他的孩子要跟老闆道歉。

The mother paid the shopkeeper money then asked her child to apologize to him.

當他是第一次犯錯，你馬上制止他，他會終身記住，不會再犯。

When a child makes a mistake for the first time and we stop him right away, he would remember it for the rest of his life and would never repeat it.

當他看到母親在跟人家鞠躬賠禮，其實這個孩子內心會怎麼樣？覺得很慚愧。

When the child saw his mother bowing and apologizing to the shopkeeper, he actually felt very guilty and ashamed.

所以，我們母親的身教，就喚醒孩子的慚愧、羞恥之心。

The mother's exemplary deeds have awakened his sense of shame and guilt.

孩子不可能不犯錯，但是只要他犯錯，我們能適時的指導他，反而都會是一個很好的機會教育。

It is impossible that a child makes no mistakes. Nevertheless, if we could appropriately help them rectify the faults when they made mistakes, it would become a very good teaching moment.

另外有位媽媽他帶孩子去書局逛，

There was another mother who went to a bookstore with her child.

逛了以後，因為很多的日記本都會附有一支小小的鑰匙，她的孩子就拿著鑰匙。後來母親出去以後，發現還給人家拿了個小鑰匙，就拿回去要還給收銀台的小姐。

There were many diaries in the store and some of them had keys attached to them. After they came out from the bookstore, the mother found her child holding a little key, so they went back to the store and returned it to a cashier.

收銀台小姐說：這個拿回去也不知道裝在哪裡，就送給你！

But the cashier said, "Well, I don't know which diary the key belongs to, you can just keep it."

那時候媽媽也不以為意，就拿回去。

The mother did not think it was a big deal at that time and gave it to her child.

後來小孩上學，她就突然察覺到，孩子會順手拿同學的一些小東西回來。

After the child started schooling, the mother found that her child often took home some small belongings of his classmates.

所以，孩子還沒有是非判斷的時候，他一做錯誤的動作，你不糾正他，他有可能以後會習以為常。

You see, if we did not correct children's bad behavior before they developed the ability to distinguish right from wrong, they would possibly get accustomed to doing it in the future.

當父母的在孩子五、六歲以前多付出，謹慎教導，相信這些是非好壞會扎得很穩固。

As parents, we should devote more time and effort to educate them before they are five or six years old.

With careful guidance, our children are bound to establish a firm ability to discern right from wrong.

A Good Civil Servant Must Have the Virtues of Filial Piety and Probity

所以，古代的母親都謹記要教誨孩子「一瓜一果之弗貪」，一瓜一果都不能貪，「一絲一毫之不苟」，In ancient times, a mother would always teach her child to 'refrain from any greedy thought for even a gourd or a fruit and to be careful with even the most trivial matter'.

絕對不能有貪小便宜的行為讓孩子去養成。

We should never allow children to develop any greedy thought of taking advantage.

俗話說，小時偷針，大時可能就偷金，

A proverb goes, "A little child who steals a needle will steal gold when grown up."

教導孩子「物雖小，勿私藏」，不可以拿人家的東西，長久的影響是很深遠的；

We must teach our children that 'even though an object might be small, I must not hide it secretly' and they must never take others' belongings because it will have far-reaching repercussions.

因為他貪，到最後很可能想要的東西他就會不擇手段去偷、去搶。

Otherwise it is very likely that in the end, they would steal or rob unscrupulously because of greed.

所以養孩子的不貪，在他往後是養他廉潔之心。廉潔非常重要。

Therefore, nurturing children to be free from greed is to help them cultivate a sense of probity. Probity is very important!

我們古代說「舉孝廉」，

Ancients said, "The principle of recommending civil servants is to recommend those who practice filial piety and probity."

為什麼要「孝」跟「廉」來衡量一個人能不能替國家服務？

Why do they use these two qualities, filial piety and probity, to assess if one can serve his country or not?

我們來看一下，「孝，德之本」，做人的本在孝，「廉」是做事之本。

Let's take a look. "Filial piety is the root of all virtues."*(A quote from The Classic of Filial Piety, one of the Thirteen Classics of Confucianism) So, filial piety is the root of being a human;

有廉潔的時候，他在辦事當中才不會圖謀自己的私利，才能大公無私，把事辦好。

and probity is the foundation of handling matters. When a person is of probity, only then would he not do things out of personal interests but serve the public with great impartiality and get jobs done well.

所以，做人做事的根本就在孝跟廉。

That's why the roots of being a human and handling matters are filial piety and probity.

一個國家的政治好跟不好，從哪裡看？

From where can we see if the governance of a country is good or bad?

從廉不廉潔，所以，廉就是政治的根本。

From the presence or absence of probity in the government officials.

我們今天假如看到從政的人不廉潔，這個國家人民生活起來就很辛苦。

Probity is the root of good government. If the officials had no probity, the people would live an excessively hard life.

現在社會有很多的現象，我們回過頭來想一想，根本都是教育問題。

There are many social issues emerging today. If we sit back and ponder, they are all due to the wrong direction of education.

所以教育已經忽略了一段時間，我們現在去抱怨沒有用。

We have neglected moral education for a long while. It is useless to complain now.

所以從自己開始，從每位家長、每位老師開始教孩子不貪，養他的廉潔之心，

Instead, every parent and every teacher should take the lead to nurture children's probity by teaching them to abstain from greed.

這樣我們往後幾十年後的社會才會愈來愈好。

Only then would the social atmosphere get better and better in the future.

當幾十年後的社會愈來愈廉潔，愈來愈懂得孝敬父母長輩，我們的晚年才怎麼樣？

When there is an upward trend of probity and filial piety in society, we can then have abundant blessings to enjoy in our old age.

才有前途可言，所以每位家長跟老師的付出絕對都不會白費。

So, the efforts of every parent and teacher will surely not be in vain.

Sharing One's Wealth Brings People Together and Creates Happiness

所以「勿私藏」，一來是不貪，

This phrase 'Even though an object might be small, I must not hide it secretly' firstly refers to abstaining from greed;

再來有時候自己的東西也不要佔為己有，就自己享受，應該懂得付出，然後培養孩子有慷慨的一種態度。

secondly, it also implies that we should not enjoy things by ourselves but should practice giving, sharing generously with others.

不然孩子假如想到東西統統只希望自己吃，那他會愈來愈心胸愈狹窄。

If children were to selfishly hide things to eat by themselves, they would become more and more small-minded.

記得剛好有幾位孩子一起上課，他們是住在一起，

Once, there were a few students attending our program staying in the same dorm.

其中有一位孩子的母親拿了幾罐牛奶來給他的孩子，在哪裡拿給他？

One of the students' mother came to bring him a few bottles of milk. Where did she pass the milk to her child?

是跑到房間裡面，然後告訴兒子說：這個都給你喝。很怕其他的同學看到。

She took her son to a room and said, "These are all for you." She was afraid that other children would see the milk.

他的孩子在喝這個牛奶的時候也要怎麼樣？偷偷摸摸！沒有錯，這個營養確實是給他喝下去了，但是對他整個人格是怎麼影響？

And her son also had to drink the milk surreptitiously. It is true that her son had consumed all the nutrition, but how would this incident affect her son's moral character?

我相信他喝那幾瓶牛奶也不痛快，吸收狀況也不好，因為要遮遮掩掩。

I believe he would not truly enjoy drinking the milk happily, his absorption would not be good either, because he had to do it in secret.

他們的老師很仔細，觀察到這一點，

The child's teacher was very observant and noticed this matter.

當天晚上就跟這個小朋友說：你有這麼多瓶牛奶，獨樂樂，不若與眾樂樂，好東西要跟好朋友一起分享，你願不願意拿出來給大家喝？

That night, the teacher told this child, "Wow, you've got so many bottles of milk! Mencius said, 'Enjoying happiness alone is not as joyful as sharing it with others.' Good things should be shared with good friends. Would you like to share with other children?"

結果孩子也很單純，他說：好！

The child was actually very innocent, he replied right away, "Okay."

就把所有的牛奶倒在同樣一個瓶子裡面，然後其他的同學都很歡喜，因為他要請大家喝牛奶。

He poured all the milk into one big bottle and then shared with everyone. All the children were very happy!

然後每個人就倒一點，就一個很微妙的現象發生了，

A very interesting phenomenon happened when the child was pouring milk for his classmates.

當人很願意付出就會喚醒很多人的一種歡喜心，也會替別人著想。

When a person is willing to share, it will rekindle many people's inner joy, and they would also be considerate of others.

所以當牛奶要倒得太多的時候，這些小朋友會說：好了，好了，其他的同學還要。

When he poured too much milk, they would say, "Enough! Enough! Save some for the other classmates."

當每個人都倒了牛奶，一起喝下去。

After all the classmates had their milk, they enjoyed the milk together.

結果施比受更有福，

As people always say, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

因為這幾個同學要喝的時候，都一起說謝謝這位同學，所以他也很高興。

This child felt elated because all of his classmates thanked him when drinking the milk.

當天晚上他寫日記，他就提到今天請大家喝牛奶，覺得那一杯牛奶特別香，特別好喝。

When he wrote his diary entry that night, he mentioned sharing his milk with other children; he felt the milk tasted exceptionally fragrant and delicious.

剛好他的媽媽翻了他的日記，一看孩子還這麼慷慨，還覺得請別人很歡喜，

His mother later happened to flip through his diary and found out that her son was so generous and was happy to share the milk with others,

媽媽突然覺得自己是不是做得不恰當。

she suddenly realized that what she had done might not be appropriate.

「財散則人聚」，

As stated in the classics, "Sharing one's wealth brings people together."

人要有慷慨才能贏得人和，人生跟事業才會有所發展。

Only when a person is generous can harmony be fostered among people; one's life and career would then have a good development.

我們的慷慨、我們的不貪都可以給孩子做很好的榜樣。

Our generosity and incorruptibility can become very good examples for our children.

In the Absence of Others One's Integrity Is Then Genuine

古代有個人他叫楊震，漢朝的楊震，

During the Han dynasty, there was a governor named Yang Zhen.

他為官非常清廉，而且常常會幫國家舉一些好的人才，一起來為國服務。

He was not only known as a scrupulous official, but had often recommended some talented people to the government.

當時候他在東萊做太守，就舉薦了一個讀書人叫王密，也舉薦他當昌邑令，也是一個官職。

When he was the provincial governor of Donglai, he recommended a talented scholar, Wang Mi, to become the county mayor of Changyi.

這個人很感謝他，所以有一天晚上就帶了一些黃金去送給他，

Wang Mi was very grateful to Yang Zhen. One night, he visited Yang Zhen with some gold as a gift to express his gratitude.

楊震看到他要送他黃金，就跟王密這位朋友講，他說：我這麼理解你，還舉薦你當官，你怎麼這麼不理解我，還要送我黃金！

Upon seeing the gold, Yang Zhen said to Wang Mi, "I know you well and recommended you as a mayor; but how come you don't understand me and brought me gold?"

結果王密就跟他說：這個沒有關係，只是我一點心意，現在絕對沒有人知道。

Wang Mi explained, "Well, this is only a little gesture of my gratitude. I guarantee you that no one else would know about it."

楊震就說：怎麼會沒人知道？天知、地知，你知，我也知。

Yang Zhen replied, "How can no one know? Heaven knows, Earth knows, you know, and I know too."

所以一個人的品德在哪裡看得出來？

Under what circumstances can we truly tell a person's moral integrity?

在沒有人看到的地方才能顯現一個人的節操。

Only in the absence of others can one's morality be revealed.

王密聽完之後，覺得很慚愧，就走了。

After hearing what Yang Zhen said, Wang Mi felt ashamed and left.

因為楊震非常的清廉，所以這個榜樣也傳給了他的後代子孫，

Yang Zhen's probity has successfully influenced his descendants,

他的孩子秉、他的孫子賜、他的曾孫彪，統統做官都做到三公的位置，都是國家的高官。

his son Bing, grandson Tsi, and great-grandson Biao all became the Three Counsellors of the State*, (*Sangong 三公) which were considered the highest official ranks in ancient China.

雖然沒有貪這些黃金，但是贏得的是更大的功德跟福分，

Yang Zhen's refusal to accept the gold had earned him even greater good fortune and merits.

所謂「積善之家，必有餘慶」，

As *The Book of Changes** states, "A family that accumulates goodness is sure to have abundant blessings." (*Also known as I Ching)

除了福報的回報，更重要的是德行的榜樣。

In addition to the reward of good fortune, the more important thing is that he had set a good example of morality for others.

所以我們也要做孩子的好榜樣。

So, we should set a good example for our children.

再跟孩子引導，對於公物也要愛惜，公物不能拿來自己私用，這個也是很重要的一點。

Next, we should also teach children to cherish public property and they must not use it for personal matters. This is also a very important point.

我曾經遇過很多很成功的人，他們都有提到，當初他們的父親、母親在公職上班，

I have met many successful people who mentioned that when they were young, their parents, who were working in the public sectors,

只要是不是公司的事，絕對不搭乘公司的車去辦事；甚至於家裡的電話也不拿來私用，非常廉潔，所以留給孩子都是很深的印象。

would never use the government cars for personal matters, even the phone provided by the government, their parents would never use it for personal purposes as well. The parents' probity left a very deep impression on their children.

All Taxpayers Will Be Your Creditors if You Damage Public Properties

我會跟小朋友說：你們學校的椅子是誰買的？學校裡面的公物是誰買的？

I used to ask my students, "Who bought the chairs in your school? Who bought the public property in the school?"

小孩很單純，他會說什麼？校長買的。

Children are very simple minded, they would say, "The principal bought them."

那我們接著問：那校長的錢從哪裡來的？

I continued asking them, "Where does the principal get the money from?" Where?

校長的錢當然從，他們思考沒那麼快。我說：校長錢從哪裡來？他說：政府給的。

They were not thinking fast, but answered after a while, "The government gave it to him."

政府的錢又從哪裡來的？

I asked again, "Where does the government get the money from?"

從納稅人來的。納稅人有多少？

"From the taxpayers." "How many taxpayers are there?"

大陸的孩子說：十三億。

So, children in China say, "1.3 billion."

沒那麼多，我說你會納稅了嗎？他說不會。

I said, "Actually, there are not so many. Are you paying tax yet? They said, "Not yet."

最少有數億的人是納稅人。

Well, at least a few billion are the taxpayers.

所以學校的公物，這一張椅子，甚至於任何一個東西，它有多少主人？

So, the properties in schools, such as a chair, how many owners does it have?

數億的主人。所以你偷了這個東西，你是欠數億的人的債，

Billions of owners. If you were to steal public property, you would be indebted to billions of people.

你以後做牛做馬都還不了。

In your future lives, it would be impossible for you to pay off the debt even if you worked as a beast of burden.

所以我們引導孩子，任何一個東西都是有主人，絕對不能因為自己的喜好就把它拿走。

So, we should teach our children that there are owners for every property, they must not take things as they please.

所以「物雖小，勿私藏，苟私藏，親心傷」。

This is the elaboration of the phrase 'Even though an object might be small, I must not hide it secretly; for my parents' hearts will be grieved if I do'.

How What Parents Value Impacts Children

我們再看下一句，我們把它念一遍：

Let's look at the next phrase and read it together.

【親所好。力為具。親所惡。謹為去。

"I will make efforts to fulfill what my parents expect from me, and I will cautiously avoid what my parents detest.

身有傷。貽親憂。德有傷。貽親羞。

When my body is injured, my parents will be worried; if my virtues are compromised, my parents will feel ashamed.

親愛我。孝何難。親憎我。孝方賢。】

When my parents love me, it is not difficult to be filial; when my parents do not love me, my filial piety is then sacred."

『親所好，力為具』，

I will make efforts to fulfill what my parents expect from me.

父母所希望我們，比方說希望我們學業好，希望我們功課好，我們都要盡心盡力去完成，

What parents expect from us, for instance, is to see us excel in our studies, we should do our best to achieve what our parents expect from us.

「親所好」。但是我們要思考一點，現在的父母到底「好」什麼？

But we should contemplate one point: What exactly pleases parents nowadays?

假如父母的好是好名、好利，這樣對於孩子有什麼影響？

If parents like fortune and fame, what impact would this have on their children? What impact?

可能孩子也好名好利；

Well, it is likely that their children would also pursue fame and profit.

當他這個態度一形成，對他一生會有很不好的影響。

Once children have developed this attitude, it would give them a very negative impact for the rest of their lives.

所以，當父母的所好還要好正確的人生價值觀。

Therefore, as parents, we must also hold proper values and perspectives towards life.

Observing the Fall of an Empire from a Pair of Ivory Chopsticks

在古代，楚王很喜歡腰很細的女子，

In ancient times, the King of the Chu* was particularly fond of women with slim waists. (*BC 355-BC 296, Spring and Autumn Period)

結果宮中的女子很多都餓死；

Consequently, many women in the palace died of hunger.

上所好，底下的人就會迎他所好，帶動的就是錯誤的風氣。

When a leader has a special interest, his subordinates would try to please him. This would lead to a bad social value and vibe.

一個家帶錯風氣，家會垮，

If a family started to create bad values and a bad vibe, the family would fall apart.

一個國的國君帶錯風氣，國就垮，

By the same token, if a country's ruler led by bad example, the country would collapse as well.

所以「一家仁，一國興仁；一家讓，一國興讓」，

As stated in *The Great Learning*, "From the benevolent example of a family, a whole country becomes benevolent;

一人貪戾，一國作亂。

by one family practicing comity, a whole country becomes courteous; while with a tyrannical and greedy leader, the entire country may be led into rebellious disorder."

所以一個國君假如很貪錢財，到最後的下場很可能是跟人民發生衝突。

If a ruler of a nation was very greedy for wealth, it is very likely he would eventually have conflicts with his people.

古代紂王寵愛妲己，

In Chinese history, the last king of the Shang dynasty*, King Zhou, doted on his concubine, Daji, (*BC 1600-BC1046)

其實在紂王那個時代有沒有賢臣輔佐？

During that time, did he have any virtuous and wise ministers assisting him?

有！當代很多賢臣，都是很有學問的。

Yes, there were many of them with great virtues and wisdom.

其中有位叫箕子，這個箕子看到一個動作，他馬上想商朝可能保不住了，才看一個動作。

One of them was Jizi who saw that King Zhou gave Daji a pair of chopsticks made of ivory, he knew that the Shang dynasty was about to perish.

所以古代讀書人都可以見微知著，

With just this one action, an ancient scholar could 'see what's coming from the observation of a small detail'.

看到一些細微之處就可以聯想到往後會有很不好的影響。

He knew well how this detail would lead to a negative future development.

因為他看到紂王送妲己一支象牙做的筷子。

Just a pair of chopsticks made of ivory! King Zhou gave them to Daji!

諸位朋友，為什麼看到一支象牙的筷子，就可以斷定商朝要亡了？

Dear friends, how could he determine that the Shang dynasty was about to perish simply from a pair of ivory chopsticks?

我們會說：有這麼嚴重嗎？我們細細來推敲一下，

We would say, "Is it really that serious?" Let us deliberate on this.

當妲己拿著象牙的筷子，請問她要用什麼酒杯？

When Daji had the ivory chopsticks, what kind of vessel do you think she would use to drink wine?

可能是犀牛玉杯。

Perhaps a vessel made of the rhino's horn and jade.

當配著犀牛玉杯，請問拿什麼盤子？

With such a precious vessel, what kind of plates do you think she would use for dining?

可能是金子、銀子打造出來的盤子。

Perhaps plates made of gold and silver.

那用金子、銀子打造出來的盤子會不會盛的是豆腐青菜？會不會？

My friends, do you think such priceless plates would be used to serve only plain food like tofu and vegetables?

一定是什麼？山珍海味。

It must have been all kinds of great delicacies.

盛得是山珍海味，你會不會穿個T恤衫在那裡吃山珍海味？會穿什麼？綾羅綢緞。

Do you think she would wear a T-shirt when eating such delicacies? What would she wear? She must be wearing exquisite clothes made of either silk or brocades.

穿著綾羅綢緞，吃著山珍海味，會不會住小木屋？

Since she wore exquisite clothes and had great delicacies, would she live in a small hut?

會住什麼？豪華的宮殿。

Where would she live? In a luxurious palace.

這些都要錢，從哪裡來？對人民不斷的壓榨，民脂民膏，到最後人民一定會起而跟他對抗。

All these luxuries need money. Where would the money come from? It must have come from continuously exploiting his people. In the end, people would rebel against him.

所以一人貪戾，一國就作亂。

That is why 'from a tyrannical and greedy leader, the entire country may be led to a rebellious disorder'.

你看古代這些賢哲確確實實很有智慧，他們懂得抽絲剝繭，可以看出往後不好的影響。

You see, the ancient sages were truly farsighted and sagacious, they could see the future development from analyzing a matter in detail.

後來商朝被周武王推翻了，

Later, King Wu of the Zhou dynasty overthrew the Shang dynasty.

古代這些起義軍的君王，事實上也都很仁厚。

In ancient times, the leaders of revolutionary armies were actually very benevolent.

當他把商朝滅掉，有沒有對商朝的子民、對紂王的子孫有沒有破壞？

When King Wu overthrew the Shang dynasty, did he execute all of King Zhou's offspring of the Shang dynasty?

沒有，都會額外再劃一塊地方，讓他的後代繼續在那裡生存。

No, he did not. Instead, he specially allocated another piece of land for them to lead normal lives.

因為古代的君王重視的是王天下的胸懷，應該以仁德服人，

The ancient emperors put importance on bringing peace and prosperity to the world, so they always led people by benevolence and their virtues.

打仗是迫不得已。

They only resorted to war when they had no other alternatives.

周朝因為有這樣的胸襟，也很快贏得天下人的歸順。

Due to the ruler's broad-mindedness, the Zhou dynasty earned the people's allegiance shortly.

What is Real Wealth and Nobility?

所以當為人父母所好是名是利，那對一個家庭也是很大很不好的影響。

Accordingly, when parents' liking is fame and profit, it will bring huge and very bad impacts to the whole family.

世間人說，人生的目標就是在求富貴，

Worldly people say, "The goal of life is to pursue wealth and status."

到底什麼是富貴？什麼是富？

But what exactly are wealth and status? What is wealth?

人忙忙碌碌一生就是要享受富貴，

Many people are busy working throughout their lives in the hope of enjoying wealth and status.

他到底有沒有享受真富貴？

However, have they really enjoyed the real wealth and status?

現在人的人生都被誤導，

In fact, the lives of people today have been misguided.

我們去看市面上那些書籍，什麼叫成功？

If we take a look at the books in the market, how do they define success? What is success?

很多書，如何賺進生命的第一個五百萬、第一個一千萬，這些書都暢銷；

Many books with titles like *How to Make the First Five Million Dollars*, or even *Ten Million Dollars in Your Life* are all best sellers.

怎麼把夫妻關係處好、孩子教育好，都不比它暢銷。

The books like *How to Create a Harmonious Husband-Wife Relationship*, *How to Educate Your Children* are much less popular.

所以人的專注點都在錢，

The focus of people's minds in life is none other than money.

好像覺得一有錢人生就好，

They feel that life is all good so long as they have plenty of money.

殊不知欲望一打開，見不到底，所謂欲是深淵。

They do not realize that once they open the door for desires, they will not be able to see its bottom. As the proverb describes, "Desire is an abyss."

很多人覺得有錢叫富，

Many people think that having lots of money is being rich.

其實，愈有錢愈擔心錢會變小；

In fact, the richer a person is, the more he will worry about the value of his money being reduced.

愈有錢看到別人比我還有錢，他又覺得，比方說看到別人有五千萬，他才一千萬，他又覺得很窮；

When he sees others are richer than him, for instance, someone has fifty millions while he has only ten million dollars, he would regard himself as very poor.

等自己有五千萬，又看到別人有一億，他又覺得自己很窮。

Wait till he has fifty million, he would still think of himself as very poor when he sees someone with one billion dollars.

所以這樣的人有沒有富？

Can people who are like this be considered rich?

沒有！所以富真正的意思，「知足者富」，

Certainly not. What is the real meaning of 'rich'? As an old saying goes, "One who is content with what he has is truly wealthy."

知足才能常樂。

When one is content with what he has, only then can he be always happy.

當他不知足，再有錢他也會覺得很匱乏。

When one is not content, he will always feel poor no matter how wealthy he is.

The Poor Entrepreneurs Who Have Only Money Left

我曾經接觸一些企業家，他們說企業家假如沒有聞聖賢的教誨，這一生真的是窮得只剩下錢而已。

I once met some entrepreneurs who told me that if businessmen had never learned the sages' teachings, they would be truly poor, with only money left.

當人生有錢而沒有智慧，錢可能是什麼？禍患。

When a person only has money but no wisdom, what is money likely to bring him? Misfortune!

當有錢外面又那麼多誘惑，可能就因為錢，開始糟蹋自己的人生。

When one is rich and surrounded by many external temptations, he will begin to ruin his own life.

所以曾經有研究出來，大企業家有幾種下場：

Some surveys show that there are a few types of endings faced by successful entrepreneurs:

第一種下場叫「勞心勞力」，

The first type is that they have 'exhausted their mind and energy';

每天很工作努力，工作超過八個小時，超過十個小時，

they worked around the clock each day, spending over 8-10 hours at work.

但是正值中年突然發現自己得了癌症，生了重病；

However, when they reached middle age, they were suddenly diagnosed with cancer or other serious illnesses.

努力了一、二十年，到頭來什麼也帶不走，

After toiling for decades, they could not bring anything with them when leaving this world.

這個叫勞心勞力。

This is called 'exhausting one's mind and energy'.

他躺在醫院，心裡快不快活？不快活。

As they lay in the ward bed in the hospital, would they be happy? Not at all.

我這麼大筆財產，不知道會到哪個男人的手裡？

They might be thinking, "Which man would be taking over my large inheritance?"

因為他的太太還很年輕，

because his wife was still very young.

他想我賺了大半輩子到頭來我都花不到，他的內心會怎麼樣？

How would they feel when they realized that they could no longer enjoy their hard-earned wealth?

捶胸頓足。這個結果好不好？不好！

They would beat their chest and stamp their feet. Is this a good ending? Not at all.

但是現在有很多人確確實實是往這裡在衝。

But many people nowadays are rushing towards this direction.

The Trilogy of Life: Being Busy, Being Blind, and Being Lost

所以我常說人生是忙、盲、茫，哪三個「口尤」？

I often describe the life phases of people today with three Chinese characters 'being busy, being blind, and being lost, which share the same pronunciation, mang.

第一個是忙碌的「忙」，這個是會意字，

The first 'mang' is busyness, the first phase of life.

左邊一個「心」，右邊一個「亡」，

This is a compound ideograph character, the left radical is heart, the right radical is death.

代表心怎麼樣？死了！都不能夠去感受父母、感受身旁妻兒的需要，每天就是忙得不得了。

It suggests that we are so busy every day that our heart has died and failed to feel the needs of our parents, spouses, and children. We simply cannot stop our busy pace of life.

忙久了就進入第二個階段，眼睛看不到了，所有自己的本分事忘了，只知道賺錢；

After being overly busy for quite a while, we would enter the second phase, blindness. We no longer see with our eyes and forget all our basic duties, leaving only making money to ourselves.

等走到中年以後，奇怪，太太怎麼跟我連話都說不上，

When we reach middle age, we may wonder, "That's odd! Why has my wife stopped talking to me?"

孩子也跟我不能溝通，我這麼拼命不都是為了你們嗎？怎麼到頭來是這個下場！

Why am I not able to communicate with my children either? I've been working so hard, isn't it all for you? Why do I end up like this?"

他會覺得人生很茫然，到底我在幹什麼？

Then he will feel completely lost and think, "What on earth have I been doing?"

這是忙、盲、茫。

This is the trilogy of life, being busy, being blind, and being lost.

很多家長忙到自己孩子幾年級都不知道。

Many parents are so busy that they do not even know what grade their children are in.

成龍有一次去接，剛好他有空，那天沒有戲檔，跑去學校等他兒子出來，很高興。等了半天，兒子都沒出來。

Jackie Chan once went to school to pick up his son. That day, with no filming work, he went to the school to wait for his son. He was very excited, yet after waiting for a long time, he still didn't see his son come out.

突然遇到他兒子的老師，走出來說，你兒子都上初中了，你還來小學等。

Suddenly he saw his son's ex-teacher who said to him, "Your son has moved on to junior high, why did you come to his primary school?"

所以我們要回想，人生的努力真正的目的在哪？

So, we must think carefully and find the real purpose of working hard in life.

不是玩金錢遊戲，那已經不是你當初努力的真正目的。

It is certainly not to play the money game; that is not your initial purpose of working hard.

當初努力的真正目的，不就是希望能有個好的家庭生活嗎？

Wasn't creating a good family life your genuine purpose of working hard?

所以我們要謹記自己的目標，不要走到半途不知道方向了。

We must remember our initial objective and must not lose our direction halfway through.

但是這個確實不容易，因為現在社會攀比的現象太多了。

Nevertheless, it is indeed not easy at all because there are just too many people in the current society who are obsessed with comparing with others.

人家的衣服比我們穿得貴，人家的車子比我們開得名牌，自己的心就受影響。

We can be easily influenced when others' clothes are more expensive or their cars are flashier than ours.

所以，不要走忙、盲、茫。這是第一個情況。

We must not take the route of being busy, being blind, and being lost; this is the first type of ending for entrepreneurs.

Probity and Health Are More Important Than Money

企業家第二個情況叫「鋹鐺入獄」，

The second type of ending for entrepreneurs is 'imprisonment'.

因為在賺錢的過程常常鋹而走險，觸犯了國法。

During the process of making money, these people rush into dangerous situations, risk their necks, and violate the law.

我記得那時候剛從北京搭飛機回來，

I remember there was one time when I was on a returning flight from Beijing,

在飛機上看到一個俄羅斯的首富，還很年輕，看起來也差不多四十歲左右而已，現在已經是變成階下囚，已經關起來了。

I read a story about Russia's richest man, he was still very young, around forty, and he was already locked up in prison.

所以，人生絕對不能夠貪婪，應該誠信去經營事業，老老實實去付出，

So in life, we must not be greedy. Instead, we should manage our business with sincerity and credibility, paying our efforts conscientiously.

相信會有很好的回報。

In doing so, it is believed that you can reap very good returns.

當然要讓孩子往後不要鋹而走險，

If we do not want our children to run the risk out of greed in the future,

更重要的是從小要教他「物雖小，勿私藏」，

the most important thing is to teach them, "Even though an object might be small, they must not hide it secretly",

教他廉潔有守，這才是根本。

teaching them 'to uphold probity'. This is fundamental!

第三種的企業家，也賺了些錢，但是把身體搞壞了，常常很多的應酬，身體都壞了。

The third ending of entrepreneurs is those who have made money yet have harmed their health. They often had to entertain a lot of clients, thus damaging their health.

當一個人中晚年身體不好，他的福享得了嗎？

When a person's health is at stake in middle and old age, would he still be able to enjoy his accumulated wealth?

可能一輩子、後半生都要跟藥物為伍，這樣也不是好的人生。

Perhaps he has to depend on all kinds of medicines for the rest of his life; this is surely not a good life.

Make Time for Family, Even in the Midst of Making Money

最後比較成就的、成功的企業家，就是能夠事業跟家庭兼顧，這是最完美的。

At last is the kind of entrepreneur who can strike a balance between his career and family. This is the most perfect type.

我有一個長者，他姓盧，我都叫他盧叔叔。

There is an elder of mine, his last name is Lu, I call him Uncle Lu.

他在企業界也相當有成就，

He had considerable success in the business world.

曾經還做過雅馬哈的總裁，底下員工有八萬人，相當成功的企業家。

He was once the CEO of Yamaha and had a staff of about 80,000 under him; quite a successful entrepreneur.

但是他做事很有原則，他就提到，只要是禮拜天中午，他一定是陪太太跟孩子一起吃飯。

He is a man of principle. He mentioned that as long as it was a Sunday, he would always accompany his wife and children for lunch,
當他堅持這麼做，帶給妻子跟子女的感受是什麼？溫暖。

When he persevered with it, what kind of feeling did he bring to his wife and children? A heartwarming feeling!

我的爸爸、我的先生非常在乎家庭，那個家庭的凝聚力就特別好。

They felt that their father, her husband, cared about the family very much. Thus, their family cohesiveness is particularly good.

在這一天，所有的應酬他都會把它推掉。

He would turn down all business entertainment on this particular day.

其實當我們認知到家庭重要，你自然而然就會積極去做，事在人為，

In fact, when we genuinely recognize the importance of family, we will naturally do whatever ought to be done. Where there is a will, there is a way.

絕對不要找藉口說人在江湖，身不由己。

We must not look for excuses like, "We can't do as we wish once we've committed to our pursuits."

只要有所堅持，你的這些朋友自然會隨著你的原則去調整。

As long as you persist with it, your friends will adjust in accord with your principles.

我們這節課先講到這邊，謝謝大家。

That's all for today. Thank you very much for listening.