

細講弟子規 第十六集

Confucius Teachings On Building A Happy Life (16)

- a foundation for Mahayana Buddhism practice

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The Three Treasure-Troves

諸位朋友，大家晚上好！

Hello my friends, good evening.

很多朋友已經很面熟了，每天晚上都來，

I can see many familiar faces now because you have been coming here every night.

代表都是下完班，吃個飯，甚至於沒吃飯就趕過來聽課。

It means that you have come here right after work and dinner, or even without dinner.

孔老夫子有說，壹個人求學問有三個法寶，叫智、仁、勇，

Confucius said that there are three treasure-troves for a person to acquire knowledge and truth. They are wisdom, benevolence, and courage.

「好學近乎智，力行近乎仁，知恥近乎勇」。

As the classics state, "Being enthusiastic in learning is to draw close to wisdom, to practice diligently is getting close to benevolence, and to have a sense of shame is being near to courage."

只要好學，就跟智慧離不遠；

As long as one is keen to learn, one will not be far away from wisdom.

當我們力行聖賢的教誨，就能慢慢感受到聖賢存心，也能感受到眾人的需要，我們那種仁慈、同理心就會出來；

When we practice the saints' and sages' teachings, we will gradually feel the sages' intention as well as other people's needs and thus bring about our heart of benevolence and empathy.

「知恥近乎勇」，真正能夠了解自己的過失，

"To have a sense of shame is being near to courage" denotes a truly courageous person who can really recognize his own faults,

進而改正自己的過失，能降伏自己的煩惱、壞習慣，這才是真正的勇者。

further strive to rectify them and is able to subdue his afflictions and bad habits. This is a genuinely courageous person.

很多朋友已經是做到「好學近乎智」，

Many of you have already been practicing the first phrase: being enthusiastic in learning is to draw close to wisdom.

而妳的好學也將帶給妳的家庭很好的撞擊。

And I believe that your eager learning attitude will have a very good impact on your family in the future.

Keen Learning Pays Off

我記得我父親他五十幾歲，剛好接了他們銀行的證券所，

I remember when my father was in his 50s, he was transferred to the stock exchange department of his bank.

因為接證券所，單位裏面要有壹個人考上執照，所以就派了很多同事壹起去考。

Since it was a requirement for the department to have a person on the staff with a license, my father and his colleagues were sent to take the examination.

我的父親是年紀最大的，已經五十幾了，就去考，就看著父親晚上在那裏看書。

My father was the oldest, over fifty years old. I saw him reading books every night.

考試結果只有一個人考上，其他年輕人都沒考上，居然是我老爸考上了。

As a result, only one person passed the examination. Surprisingly, all the young people failed, it was my father who passed the exam.

看父親沒說什麼，以他的行動就已經贏得我們對他的佩服。

You see, my father did not say a word, yet his action had won our admiration.

我們這些當兒子的能夠不好學嗎？能夠輸給自己的老爸嗎？

Can we, as his children, not be keen in learning? Can we lose to our own father?

所以上行下效，當我們這壹分好學的心能夠持續不斷，相信對妳的家庭壹定是個很好的開始

So, the people below would emulate the people above. When we can persevere with this keen learning attitude, I believe it would surely be a very good start for our families.

早上的課程剛好把「入則孝」告了一個段落，接下來是第二個單元，「出則弟」。

This morning, we finished explaining the first chapter: Being Filial at Home. We will now move on to the second chapter: Practicing Fraternity Outside Home.

Practicing Fraternity Outside Home

這個「出」是指家庭以外，就要學習「弟」，

"Outside Home" implies beyond our family members, we must practice fraternity to all.

「弟」包含兄友弟恭，包含尊敬長輩的禮節態度。

It includes love and respect among siblings as well as the etiquette and attitude to respect elders.

因為在家里面兄弟就能夠友愛，就能夠以禮相待，當然他出去外面與人相交就能夠把這個態度帶出去。

When siblings can treat each other with respect and courtesy at home, they would surely be able to extend such an attitude to people outside.

假如在家里面跟兄弟就是吵吵鬧鬧，不守禮節，那出去會不會突然變得很規矩？

Conversely, if siblings often quarrel and violate etiquette at home, would they suddenly become well-disciplined outside?

有沒有可能？不可能！

Is it possible? Impossible!

所以，要認識一個人，到哪里最能看清楚？

So, to truly know a person, where is the best place to see them clearly?

叫不入虎穴，焉得虎子，直接到他們家。

As the saying goes, "Without going into a tiger's den, how can you catch its cubs?" Go straight to their house!

很多我們為人處事的行為，確確實實是在家里養成，所以為什麼家教如此重要！

Much of our behavior of dealing with affairs and getting on with people is indeed developed at home. That is why family education is so important!

所謂「門當戶對」，是什麼門當？是什麼戶對？

People often say, "a well-matched marriage of the same status." What status is matched?

最重要的是家教、是德行。

The most important criteria are family education and virtuous conduct.

現在的門當戶對是什麼？錢財！你們怎麼都知道？我比較沒有經驗。

Well, what are the matching criteria people nowadays refer to? Wealth! (*The audience replied) How do you all know it? I am inexperienced in this.

「對」錯了，本質錯了，結果就麻煩了。

If the matching criteria, the essence, are wrongly set, trouble will ensue.

所以「德行」才是家之本，才是國之本，絕對不是錢財。

So, virtue is the foundation of a family, it is the base of a nation! It is definitely not wealth!

The Importance of Filial Piety and Fraternity

《孝經》里面有一段很重要的教誨，

There is a very important teaching in the *Classic of Filial Piety*, which reads,

「教民親愛，莫善於孝；教民禮順，莫善於悌」。

"For teaching the people to be affectionate and loving, there is nothing better than filial piety; for teaching them how to be courteous and amenable, there is nothing better than fraternity."

教導人民如何親愛他人，如何關懷他人，沒有比教孝更有效果的，莫善於孝；

To teach the people to love and care for others, there is nothing more effective than to teach them filial piety.

教導人民有節有度,「教民禮順」,懂得尊敬他人,沒有比教悌更好的方法,莫善於悌。

To teach the people to be just and know their boundaries as well as to be courteous and amenable, knowing how to respect others, nothing is better than teaching them fraternity.

所以「悌」還包含一個禮節的教誨,

So, this "fraternity" also includes the teaching of etiquette.

孔夫子也說「不學禮,無以立」,

Confucius also said, "If one does not learn etiquette, it will be hard for him to have a foothold in society."

沒有禮貌很可能在人群當中無法立足。

A person who is discourteous will very likely lose his standing in a group.

How to Help Children Plant the Seed of Encountering Benefactors

在這幾天的課程,我也跟諸位朋友報告了。因為我小時候養成一個習慣,

As aforementioned in previous lessons, I had developed a habit since childhood:

就是只要長輩到我們家,我的耳朵聽到了他的聲音,不管我在幹什麼事,我一定會跑到他們面前來,然後跟他說:叔叔好!阿姨好!

whenever there were elders in our house, as soon as I heard their voice and no matter what I was doing at that time, I would run to greet them, "Hello, uncle! Hello aunty!"

你們的笑容很像我叔叔。

Your smile looks just like my uncle's smile! Ha ha ha...

孩子有禮貌,大人絕對非常歡喜,所以我擡起頭來,他很歡喜,我也很滿意。

A well-mannered child would surely make elders delighted. So, when I raised my head, I could see them beaming with joy. So was I.

因為當一個人在做有德行的事,其實他的喜悅已經從內心散发出來了。

Because, when a person is doing a virtuous deed, joy will radiate from his inner heart.

有禮貌的態度,我突然會體會到,原來一個人能不能遇貴人,從小就決定了。你信不信?

I suddenly realized whether a person will encounter benefactors in life or not has already been determined by his courteous attitude from youth. Do you believe it?

我跟家長開親師座談,我就跟他們說:你們的孩子以後能不能遇貴人,我現在就可以判斷。

When I held teacher-parent conferences, I told them, "Whether or not your child will encounter his benefactors in the future, I can already judge now."

他們眼睛都瞪得很大,因為現代人很現實,

Upon hearing this, they would widen their eyes and be all ears because people today are very realistic.

一提到孩子可以遇貴人，他們就很專注。

When you mention that their children can encounter benefactors, they would become very focused.

孩子有禮貌，走到哪兒就贏得眾人對他的疼愛；

A well-mannered child would earn people's love and affection wherever he goes.

相反的，孩子假如沒有禮貌，不但不會遇貴人，不但不會有很多助力，在言語、行為當中還會形成很多的阻力。

On the contrary, not only will an ill-mannered child be unable to encounter helping hands from virtuous people, his speech and behavior would even bring him many obstacles.

他就會覺得莫名其妙，他們怎麼都看我不順眼，自己還不明不白。所以，禮貌太重要！

He would feel rather baffled when others do not like him. He would not be able to figure this out by himself. So, etiquette is too important!

Teach Children Etiquette While They Are Still Young

諸位朋友，禮貌這麼重要，什麼時候教？

My friends, since etiquette is so important, when should we teach it to our children?

我都會問家長，考試多兩分重要？還是教孩子做人做事的態度重要？

I would ask the parents, "Is scoring higher marks in the exams more important than teaching children the right attitude in dealing with affairs and interpersonal relationships?"

做人做事！

The latter one is more important!

但是家長都覺得是做人做事，可是大半的時間跟孩子耗在哪兒？耗在分數。

Even though they thought so, where did they spend most of their time with children? On their test scores!

所以重要的事不能再拖了，再拖，孩子都太大了，

So, we can no longer afford to procrastinate with such important matters. If we keep delaying, children will have grown-up.

習慣又成自然；許多事刻不容緩，我都替你們著急，因為我沒小孩。

Once a habit is formed, it will become second nature. So, many things demand immediate action! I do not have children, but I am really worried for you all.

所以，一定要重視這些影響孩子一輩子重要的德行，

We must pay attention to these important virtues that will affect children in their lifetime.

他將贏得非常多的助力。

In doing so, they will obtain much help from others in the future.

The Good Heroes of the Great Wall of China

我們來思考一下，假如人與人的相交往沒有禮節，會出現哪些情況？

Let's think about it: what will happen if etiquette is absent in the interactions among people?

比方說，我上次去爬長城，上面寫著「不上長城非好漢」，

For example, the last time I went to the Great Wall of China, I saw a sign which read, "Those who do not hike to the top of the Great Wall are not good heroes."

所以要當個好漢，上去爬長城。

It means if one wishes to be a good hero, he must hike the Great Wall.

剛好它會有些關口只能夠讓另外一邊一個人過來，我們這邊一個人過去。

Some of the gates on the Great Wall only allow one person from each direction to walk through.

就在過這個關口的時候，很多人不守規矩，就跑到對面的路上去。

As people were passing through the gate, many of them did not follow the rule and ran through the opposite path.

結果發生什麼事？整個人群就塞在這個關口里面。

What happened then? The whole crowd was jammed inside the gate.

我們中心的老師在里面一看，不行，因為後面的人不了解這裡的情況，他會一直往前擠，另外一邊的也一直往前擠，到時候可能會有情況發生。

Upon seeing this situation, our teachers knew this would not be good. Since the people in both directions outside of the gate did not know the situation, they would continue to push forward, eventually something bad might happen.

我們的老師馬上站出來，開始指揮交通，那些要插隊的叫他們趕快排回去，

The teachers immediately stepped forward and started to direct the traffic, asking those who had tried to jump the queue to line up quickly.

那些人都看著我們，還以為我們是長城管理處的。

The people were looking at us and thought that we were from the Great Wall's management office.

有時候，我們該出來的時候還是得出來，

Sometimes, when it is necessary for us to stand forth, we must do so.

不然情況可能會怎麼樣？到時候糟到你想做都做不來，所以時機點很重要。後來就疏通掉了。

Otherwise, what would happen? The situation might become too bad to reverse, even if you had intended to do it. So, timing is very important! The traffic eased later.

所以確實，無禮的話，人與人就會自私自利，就可能發生衝突。

Indeed, without etiquette, people would selfishly seek personal interests and conflicts might happen.

Good Etiquette Vibes Fill the Mountain Air

剛好我上了杭州天目山講了五天的課，

One time, on the way to Tianmu Mountain in Hangzhou, China, to give a 5-day lecture,

我們在上山的時候，迎面來了兩台車，

we were driving up the mountain road and saw two cars heading towards us.

我們一看就主動靠在旁邊，讓他先走，因為我們是看到兩輛車。

We took the initiative to drive to the side to let the two cars go first.

第一輛開過來，車上的人很歡喜，對我們揮手，我們也對他揮手。

Since there were two cars, we waited for the first car to drive by—the people in the first car were very happy and waved to us. We also waved to them—

所以當一個人有禮貌的時候，一定會讓人家感覺如沐春風，那何樂而不為！

when one is courteous, he will make others feel very comfortable as if one is bathing in the spring breeze. It's totally worth it, why not do it?!

結果我們等了一會兒，第二台都沒有過來，我們覺得很納悶，就派人去看一下。

And then, we waited for a while for the second car to pass by, but it didn't. We were wondering why and sent a person to check.

結果對面的車早就停在那里也等我們過去，所以我們就開過去，兩邊車上的人都露出了燦爛的微笑。

It turned out that the second car had parked by the roadside, waiting for us to pass. We then drove past the car. The people in both cars were all beaming with elated smiles.

當人與人都這麼禮敬，那感覺非常的舒服。

When people are so courteous and respectful to each other, a pleasant vibe will fill the air.

我們還沒上山以前，就已經考察到民情，代表天目山的人民很淳樸。

Before we reached the mountain top, we had already experienced the local people's nature: simple and unadorned.

所以我們從生活當中也時時可以體會到，懂禮、懂讓才能讓人生的路順暢，才不至於會塞車、會沖突。

We can always verify through our lives: only when we know how to practice courtesy and concession can we then make our lives smooth with no "traffic jams" —no conflicts.

所以，「教民禮順，莫善於悌」，

So, "For teaching people how to be courteous and amenable, there is nothing better than fraternity."

我們就先從家庭當中來落實友愛，落實禮節。

Let's begin to implement fraternal love and etiquette in our own family.

Siblings Should Respect and Love Each Other

我們先來念一段經文：

Next, let's read one paragraph of the text.

【兄道友。弟道恭。

"The older children should be friendly and the younger ones should be respectful;

兄弟睦。孝在中。

when siblings get along harmoniously, filial piety already exists in their actions.

財物輕。怨何生。

When I do not value wealth much, where will resentment come from?

言語忍。忿自泯。】

When I hold back and do not speak hurtful words, the grudge will naturally die out."

『兄道友，弟道恭』，

The older children should be friendly and the younger ones should be respectful.

兄弟是同氣連枝，血濃於水，

Siblings are connected branches that were born from the same energy and root. As the saying goes, "Blood is thicker than water."

是同一個父母所生，所以兄弟很有可能是陪我們一生走過最長路的親人。

Born of the same parents, siblings are most likely to accompany us the longest on our life's journey.

法昭禪師曾經寫了一篇描述兄弟情誼的一首詞，

Zen Master Fa Zhao once wrote a verse to describe brotherly love,

叫做「同氣連枝各自榮，些些言語莫傷情，

"Being born of the same energy and of connected branches, yet prospering separately, do not hurt each other's feelings by tiny bickering words.

一回相見一回老，能得幾時為弟兄；

We get older every time we see each other, how much time is left for us to be siblings?

弟兄同居忍便安，莫因毫末起爭端，

Only when forbearing each other can siblings then live together in peace; never should we argue over trivial incidents.

眼前生子又兄弟，留與兒孫作樣看」。

Now having children who become siblings with each other, we must leave a good example for them and our offspring."

「同氣連枝各自榮」,

"Being born of the same energy and of connected branches, yet prospering separately..."

兄弟就好像同一棵樹延伸出來的樹枝一樣。

Siblings are similar to the branches that extend from the same tree.

「些些言語莫傷情」,

"...do not hurt each other's feelings by little bickering words."

人與人相交往，家里的人最常溝通就是用言語，所以言語當中要柔軟，要和諧，絕對不要講話很沖。

The interflow among people and families is mostly through speech. So, our speech must be soft, it must be harmonious; we must never speak aggressively!

所以，我們《弟子規》才說『言語忍，忿自泯』，

That's why *Dizigui* teaches us, "When I hold back and do to speak hurtful words, the grudge will naturally die out."

人與人的衝突，一半以上都是因為什麼？言語不合。

What is the reason that over half of the conflicts among people occur? Speech disagreement.

「一回相見一回老」,

"We get older every time we see each other..."

確確實實我們上了三、四十歲以後，每次看到兄弟姐妹都會有這麼一點感覺，你的白頭髮多了一點。

It is true that after we have reached 30s or 40s, we would share this same sentiment: our grey hair has grown a bit more every time we see our siblings.

所以「能得幾時為弟兄」，我們愈大代表人生的路就走得快到盡頭了，要好好珍惜這段情誼。

So, "...how much time is left for us to be siblings?" This indicates that the journey of our lives is approaching the end soon. We must cherish this siblinghood!

所以「弟兄同居」，一起居住，「忍便安」，懂得互相忍讓，謙讓。

So, to live together in peace, siblings must practice forbearance and modesty.

「莫因毫末起爭端」，不要因為小小的事故就起了爭執。

"...never should we argue over trivial incidents." We must not argue over petty matters.

「眼前生子」，眼前兄弟姐妹都生孩子了，他們又各有兄弟姐妹，

"Now having children..." Our siblings now have their own children who become siblings with each other.

我們上一代應該做出兄友弟恭的榜樣，才能「留與兒孫」做好榜樣看。

As the older generation, we must set a good example of siblings' love and respect so that our descendants would have a precedent to emulate.

法昭禪師這首詩詞值得我們細細去品味。

This poem, written by Master Fa Zhao, is worth appreciating meticulously.

Teacher Yang's Filial Family

這首讓我想起了楊淑芬老師曾經跟我提到，

This poem reminded me of Teacher Yang's words.

她說確實兄弟姐妹是同氣連枝，她就會去想到怎麼樣讓父親非常的歡喜快樂。

She once told me that siblings are indeed born of the same energy and are connected branches. She would think of ways to make her father happy and delighted.

她說唯有子孫賢孝，子孫都有很好的發展，才能讓她的父親非常寬慰。

She said, "Only when the children and grandchildren are sagacious, filial, and have very good development can she bring great comfort to her father."

由於她有這一分心，希望她父親、母親這棵大樹枝葉能夠愈來愈茂盛，

Due to her filial intentions, hoping that her parents' big tree would flourish more and more healthy leaves and branches,

所以她很年輕的時候就開始教導她的甥侄輩讀聖賢的經典，還寫書法。

when she was very young, she started teaching her nieces and nephews to study the saints' and sages' classics as well as writing calligraphy.

楊老師有十八個甥侄輩的晚輩，總共十八個，十八個人都被她教過。

She has eighteen nieces and nephews, and they were all taught by her.

由於她有這一分心，他們的下一代非常優秀，很多是老師，還出了幾個醫生。

Because of her filiality, the next generation of her family was very outstanding, many of them are teachers and a few are doctors.

確實，一個家族能好，必然是長輩要怎麼樣？要帶頭示範，要真心付出。

Indeed, for a family to have good fortune, what must the elders do? They must lead by example and contribute sincerely.

所以兄友弟恭，不只是在他們那一輩，還把這一分兄友弟恭延伸到哪里？下一代子孫。

So, fraternity is not only practiced in her generation but is also extended to the next generations.

楊老師她沒有生孩子，但是每一次母親節、父親節，他們家就特別熱鬧，因為她有十八個甥侄輩，應該比諸位的小孩多一點。

Teacher Yang has no children, but during Mother's Day and Father's Day, her house would fill with merriment because she has eighteen nieces and nephews which should be a bit more than your children.

我在他們家住了半年，遇到這些節日都特別熱鬧，這些被她教導過的甥侄輩確實對她非常孝順。

I stayed in her house for half a year and it was very lively during these festivals. These nieces and nephews who were taught by her are indeed very filial to her.

Spend Time With Your Parents Before It's Too Late

我另外有一位結拜的大哥，他也住在台中。

I have another sworn-brother who also lives in Taizhong, Taiwan.

他的兄弟姐妹也特別友愛，

His siblings are also particularly loving and respectful to each other.

禮拜六、禮拜天，一有時間，不用相約都會主動回到父母親的身邊。

Every Saturday and Sunday, as long as they are free, they would take the initiative to return to their parents' home without making arrangements beforehand.

因為他父親比較早離開，所以他母親後半生都是他們兄弟姐妹長期陪伴他的媽媽。

Because his father passed away in their early lives, for the rest of his mother's life, she was accompanied by her children.

他媽媽在前幾年去世了，去世那時候我有去參加告別式。

His mother passed away a few years ago, and I went to attend the farewell ceremony.

去了之後我很感動，因為也看到他的下一代，他的這些甥侄輩素質都非常的好，

I was very touched when I saw that his younger generation, the nieces and nephews, all have very good personal qualities.

因為他們兄弟這麼友愛，就已經給了下一代很好的榜樣。

Since his siblings are so loving, they have already set a very good example for the next generation.

因為我很習慣看到結果就要去把原因找出來。

I am used to investigating the cause when I see an effect.

後來我的大哥又跟我說，他說當他母親離去，他的內心很充實。

Later, my sworn-brother told me that he felt an inner fulfillment when his mother left them.

為什麼？因為在他這十多年的生活當中，他都盡量推掉很多無謂的應酬，統統去陪伴他的母親。

Why? Because in his past ten years of life, he tried his best to decline a lot of unnecessary entertainment to accompany his mother.

當他母親離去的時候，他覺得很安慰，覺得他的抉擇正確。

When his mother passed away, he felt very comforted because he had made the right choice.

所以，兄友弟恭一定可以「留與子孫作樣看」。

So, when siblings are respectful and loving to each other, they would surely be able to set a good example for the younger generations to follow.

A Pure Mind Can Cure Another's Sickness

古代的人兄弟姐妹之情，也是讓很多人感動流淚。

The fraternal love and affection of people in ancient times has also moved many people to tears.

在晉朝的時候，有個小孩叫做庾袞，剛好他們村落有瘟疫。

During the Jin Dynasty, there was a little boy named Yu Gun. It happened that there was an epidemic in their village.

他的兄弟已經死了幾個，另外有一個兄弟已經病床在臥，

Some of his siblings had already died, while another sibling was bedridden.

他的所有的長輩要帶著一些孩子要趕快離去。

All his elders wanted to bring the other children away from that place immediately.

結果這個庾袞不願意走，他說：我不能放下我的兄長不管。

But Yu Gun refused to leave. He said, "I cannot leave my brother here unattended."

他的長輩一再勸說：這個太危險了，我們走！

His elders urged him again and again, saying that it was too dangerous to stay and they should all leave.

他就跟這些長輩說：我天生不怕病，你們就讓我留下來！他的長輩拗不過他，就走了。

He said to his elders, "I was born unafraid of sickness. Please let me stay." Unable to change his mind, the elders left.

這麼小的孩子親自幫他哥哥熬藥，常常半夜還在另外兄長的靈前，在那里痛哭，在那里感傷。

Such a little boy personally boiled medicine for his brother. Very often at midnight, he felt so sad and would cry bitterly in front of his departed siblings' altar.

由於他這分對兄弟的友愛，他的哥哥奇跡似的好過來。

Owing to his fraternal love and care, his brother miraculously recovered.

諸位朋友，為什麼這個病可以好過來？

My friends, how could his brother's disease be cured?

這種友愛、這種關懷一定會讓他的哥哥免疫系統上升。

Such affectionate love and care would surely boost his brother's immunity.

中國人對待病毒不是跟它打仗，好像跟它勢不兩立，

When dealing with a virus, Chinese people do not fight with it or go against it.

中國人叫「解毒」，中國人不叫「消毒」。

Instead, they call it "detoxification," not "disinfection."

當我們的心念很純正，自然病毒就會慢慢轉化掉。

When our mind is very pure, naturally the virus would be slowly transformed.

所以，愛心可以解毒，慈悲心也可以解毒。

So, a loving and compassionate heart can help detoxify the virus.

後來他的長輩、他的父母回來了，看到他們兄弟還存活，都非常的欣慰。

Later, when his elders and parents returned and saw the two brothers were still alive, they were very happy and comforted.

Morality Is More Important Than One's Own Life

我們從庾袞這個事例，我們也可以看得出來，雖然他年紀小，他也讀過聖賢書。

From Yu Gun's example, we can deduce that he must have studied the books of saints and sages despite his young age;

所以在他的人生價值觀當中，有比生命更重要的事，哪一件事？道義！

in his value and perspective of life, there was one thing more important than life. What was it? The duty of morality.

所以，殺身成仁，舍身可以取義，

That's why a virtuous person will sacrifice his life to accomplish benevolence and uphold righteousness.

因為聖賢人的存心，是道義勝過生命。

Because in the heart of saints and sages, the duty of morality is more important than their own lives.

由於他們有這樣的存心，才能寫下了幾千年來可歌可泣讓人非常感動的故事，也有很多大圓滿的發展。

Due to their selfless intentions, there were very inspiring and touching stories written and passed down throughout thousands of years. Many of the stories also had a perfect development and ending.

這是晉朝的庾袞對兄弟的態度，兄弟之情勝過自己的生命。

This is about Yu Gun's attitude towards his brother in the Jin Dynasty, whereby fraternal affection surpassed his own life.

The Hero Cherishes a Hero

在唐朝有一位大臣叫李績，其實他的原名不姓李，姓徐（雙人徐），

During the Tang Dynasty, there was a great minister named Li Ji. Actually, his original last name was not Li but Xu.

因為對國家非常有功勞，所以李世民賜他國姓叫李績。

Due to his great contribution to the country, Li Shi Min* (*Emperor Tai Zong) conferred on him the national surname of Li, hence he was named Li Ji.

我們早上已經講到李世民，確確實實他尊敬賢德之人，做得非常成功。

We mentioned Emperor Tai Zong this morning. He truly honored the virtuous people and had done a very successful job.

有一次李績生病，禦醫就說需要人的胡子做藥引，

Once, Li Ji fell sick and the imperial doctor said that a man's beard was needed for inducing the medicine to function.

唐太宗聽完，馬上刀子拿起來，就把他的胡子削了一段下來，拿給禦醫。

When Emperor Tai Zong heard, he immediately took a knife to trim part of his beard and gave it to the doctor.

這件事傳到李績的耳中，怎麼樣？

What happened when the news of this incident spread to Li Ji's ears?

太感動了，馬上就跪在皇上面前，非常感謝皇上這麼對他推心置腹，

Being extremely moved, he immediately knelt before the emperor to express his deep gratitude towards the emperor's heart-to-heart trust and care.

這真的是所謂「英雄惜英雄」。

This really illustrates "the hero cherishes a hero."

李績除了是忠臣，也必然是孝子，也必然對兄弟友愛，因為我們知道，一個人的德行都是從孝跟悌建立起來的。

Apart from being a loyal minister, Li Ji was definitely a filial child and a loving sibling because we know that a person's virtue is established on filiality and fraternity.

Do Kind Things for Siblings While You Still Can

李績那個時候年紀也很大了，他有個姐姐，剛好姐姐生病，他去探望姐姐。

At that time, Li Ji was already very old. He had an older sister, who happened to fall sick. When he went to visit his sister, he saw her cooking porridge.

看到姐姐正好在煮粥，他就親自幫她煮，就把這些仆人支開。

He then asked the servant to leave and helped his sister to cook the porridge himself.

古代當大官的人相貌都怎麼樣？都有長一把長長的胡子。李績就在那里煮粥，因為風很大，不小心火燒上胡子來，趕快把火滅掉。

How did the ancient ministers look? They all had long beards. When Li Ji was cooking the porridge, his beard suddenly caught fire due to a strong wind. He quickly put out the fire.

他的姐姐在旁邊看到了，就說：弟弟，你這是何苦！家里的傭人這麼多，你就請他們做就好了，不要自己在那里這麼辛苦。

When his sister saw it, she said, "Ah, my dear brother, why are you asking trouble for yourself? There are so many servants at home, can't you just let them cook? Do not strain yourself!"

結果李績就回答說，他說：姐姐，你的年紀都這麼大了，我不知道還有多少機會能夠為你服務。

Li Ji replied, "Sister, you have grown so old, I don't know how many more opportunities I may serve you."

所以諸位朋友，李績在煮這個粥的時候，內心是充滿感恩的心，

My dear friends, when Li Ji was cooking the porridge, his heart was full of immense gratitude.

時時都記住姐姐陪著他成長過程給予他多少的扶持，他都記在心上。

He always carried in his mind all the support and kindness that his sister had bestowed on him throughout his growing years.

Harmonious Siblings Is a Sign of Filial Piety

我也很幸運，我有兩個姐姐，也特別照顧我。

I am also very fortunate to have two older sisters who took great care of me.

我的大姐剛好跟我是同一個大學，記得那個時候我身體不太好，要吃中藥。

My big sister happened to study in the same university as me. I remember my health was not too good at that time and I had to take Chinese medicine.

那個中藥一包都很大，然後一煮要煮一個多小時，從一大鍋水煮成一小碗。

A packet of the medicine was very big, it had to be boiled in a big pot for over an hour before it could be reduced to one small bowl.

我那時候大學一年級，住在宿舍里面，宿舍能不能煮中藥？

I was a freshman and stayed in a dorm at that time. Was cooking medicine allowed in the dormitory?

那一定會破壞人際關係，所有的人一定會拿著抗議牌來我的寢室門口抗議，所以我沒有辦法煮。

If I had done so, it would surely have harmed my interpersonal relationships. Everyone in the dorm would have protested in front of my room.

我姐姐就在校外她住的地方，每天幫我煮兩次，早晚一次。

Since it was impossible for me to boil the medicine, my sister who stayed off-campus would help me boil the medicine twice a day, in the morning and at night.

煮完之後，她就從校門外走很遠，因為宿舍都是在大學校園的最邊邊，

After the medicine was ready, she had to walk a long distance because the dorm was located at the edge of the school.

也是走很遠的路，就端著這一碗熱騰騰的中藥。到了我們男生宿舍，前面還寫了一排字，叫做「女賓止步」，

Holding the bowl of boiled hot medicine, she arrived at my dorm where a sign said, "Female guests please stop here."

她又不能進來。所以就走到我宿舍的窗口，然後跟我敲，敲了幾下然後比著手勢「來吃藥了」。

She had to walk to the outside window of my room and knock on the window then she would use sign language to tell me "come for your medicine."

我看到那一幕，病都快好一半了，趕快跑出來喝下充滿姐姐關愛的這碗中藥。

Upon seeing her kind gesture, my sickness had almost half healed. I quickly ran out to drink the bowl of Chinese medicine that was full of my sister's love.

所以姐弟之情非常的深。也由於姐弟之情很深，確實也讓父母非常放心，

So, the affection between us siblings is very profound. This deep affection among us siblings has indeed let our parents rest assured.

所以『兄弟睦，孝在中』。

As *Dizigui* states, "When siblings get along harmoniously, filial piety already exists in their actions."

因為父母會想，等我百年之後，假如你們兄弟姐妹能互相友愛，他就放心多了。

Because parents would think if the siblings are loving and caring for each other, they could then rest in peace after their passing.

One Way to Nurture Children's Gratefulness and Responsibility

所以，只要家庭瀰漫著這種兄友弟恭，相信家族一定會有很好的發展。

So, as long as the family is filled with such fraternal love and respect, I believe that the whole clan would surely have very good development.

而且這種孝悌之風不只會感動人，連家庭里面的動物都會被感動，你相信嗎？

Besides, such tradition of filial piety and fraternity will not only move the people, even the animals in the family will also be touched. Do you believe it?

宋朝的時候，有個讀書人叫陳昉，

During the Song Dynasty, there was a scholar named Chen Fang.

他們已經十三世的孩子孫孫都一起同住，家里面有七百余口人。

Thirteen generations of his family had been living under one roof, so there were over 700 people in the family.

他們也非常遵守祖宗的遺訓，都不分家，

They abided strictly by their ancestor's will: do not divide up family property and live apart.

而且都不請傭人，所有的活都自己幹，

Furthermore, they did not hire servants but did all the household chores by themselves.

這樣做好不好？好！我們之前也講過，真正讓孩子去習勞，他才知道感恩，所以習勞太重要。

Is this way good? Good! We have mentioned earlier that only by letting children do house chores can they know to be grateful. Doing chores is too important!

今天假如孩子花錢很兇，他會奢侈；有什麼家活都不幹，他會怎麼樣？懶惰；

Today, if children were to spend money lavishly, they would become extravagant. If they do not do any housework, what will happen to them? They will become lazy!

又奢侈、又懶惰，懶惰又會造成很有依賴心，然後又不知道感恩。

They will become extravagant and lazy. Laziness will make them very dependent and not know how to be grateful.

你看，一個不勤勞延伸出來的壞習性可真不少。

You see, many bad habits can develop from idleness.

所以有見識的長者，他都會看到這些事情對孩子往後的影響，他就會有所堅持。

Insightful elders are able to see the impact of these matters on children in the future and will persevere with their standpoint.

曾國藩先生，他在清朝，算是漢人當中當官當得最大，

Mr. Zeng Guo Fan* was considered to hold the highest-ranking official position among the Han people in the Qing Dynasty. (*1811-1872, a Chinese statesman, military general, and Confucian scholar.)

當了四省的總督，管理四省的總督。

He was the governor of four provinces.

位已經這麼高了，但是他的家規，是所有孩子的家活、自己份內事統統自己動手。

Despite his high position, he had set a family rule: all children must be responsible for all the household chores.

這個決定重不重要？重要！

Was his decision important? Important!

所以曾國藩先生的後代，到現在已經幾百年了，不衰！

So, Mr. Zeng's descendants never decayed even after hundreds of years now.

我們台灣有一位他的子孫，也很成功，叫曾仕強，也常常到各地去演講。

In Taiwan, there is a descendant of Mr. Zeng who is also very successful. His name is Zeng Shi Qiang. He often goes to various places to give lectures.

所以家風的承傳至關重要。

So, inheriting and passing down the family tradition is crucial.

How to Lose 30 Million Yuan, Fast

人很有錢，又很有權勢的時候，他只要沒有原則，家道必然在幾代之內絕對會敗掉。

When one is very rich and powerful, but if he has no principles, his family's destiny is bound to decay within a few generations.

我們去研究林則徐的後代，曾國藩的後代，範仲淹的後代，你一定會了解到，他們那些家規確實是看得非常深遠。

When we study the posterity of Lin Ze Xu*, Zeng Guo Fan, and Fan Zhong Yan, (*1785-1850, known for his role in the events leading up to the first Opium War, 1839-1842, between Britain and the Qing dynasty.) you will certainly find out that their family rules are indeed very far-sighted.

而家風往往兩三代就敗掉的，都是商人居多，

Family tradition and destiny that often failed in two or three generations were mostly those of businessmen.

因為人一有錢就會覺得什麼最大？「有錢能使鬼推磨」，這句話是錯的！

Because when one is rich, they would think what is the greatest? A saying goes, "If you have money, you can make the devil push the millstone for you." This saying is wrong.

因為他一有錢，他會瞧不起讀書的人：你讀那麼多書有什麼了不起，你又沒有比我過得好！

Because when one is rich, he would look down on the intellectuals. They would say, "It is no big deal that you have studied so much because you do not live a better life than me."

往往這種財大氣粗誰學去了？小孩就給你全盤吸收。

So very often, by whom would such a bragging attitude be learned? The children will absorb it all.

有一本書非常好，叫做《保富法》，如何真正讓你的財富可以綿延子子孫孫的方法。

There is a very good book entitled *Ways to Preserve Wealth*. It teaches us how to truly retain wealth generation after generation.

只有你保住了，那沒什麼了不起，因為你保住了，你帶得走嗎？

Because, it is no big deal if only you can keep the wealth; even if you can retain your wealth can you bring it to your next life?

兩手空空也帶不走；

You will leave the world empty-handed! There's nothing you can bring with you!

如何讓子子孫孫都真正有福、有慧，那才是本事。

How to let your descendants have true fortune and wisdom, that is the genuine capability.

剛好曾國藩先生的外孫，叫做聶雲台先生，他長期住在上海。

Mr. Zeng Guo Fan's grandson, Mr. Nie Yun Tai, lived in Shanghai for a long time.

諸位朋友，上海這個地方非常的繁華，富可敵國的商人很多，

My friends, Shanghai is a bustling city with many extremely wealthy businessmen. Having stayed there for decades,

他在那里幾十年看到非常多的大富翁在一代、兩代之間馬上垮下來，他去找尋他的原因在哪里？

Mr. Nie had seen many tycoons who suddenly collapsed within one or two generations. He was then prompted to investigate the cause.

其中有一個姓周的商人，他是開錢莊的，到處都有錢莊，

One of the businessmen's last name was Zhou. He ran the business of "cash loan store" and had branches everywhere.

很有錢，財富是幾百萬的銀兩。

He was very wealthy and his wealth was counted in the millions of silver taels.

剛好他某個錢莊的主管，那個地方发生水患，當地很貧窮，

One of his branch supervisors helped him donate 500 taels to relieve a local flood where people were very poor.

他的主管(那個分公司主管)就給他捐了五百兩。幾百萬兩捐五百兩多不多？不多！

Was donating 500 taels considered a lot when he had millions of taels? Not much!

結果這個主管被這個周姓老板罵得狗血淋頭：你怎麼可以把我的錢捐出去？

As a result, this supervisor was scolded badly by his boss, "How dare you take my money to donate?"

這個周姓的老板他說，他留住財產只有一個方法，就是只要進他的口袋的就不要給它流出去，就是一個字，就是「積」，積財。

Mr. Zhou said, "There is only one way to keep my wealth: so long as it is in my pocket, I will never allow it to flow out, which is only one word: accumulation."

諸位朋友，積財就怎麼樣？

My friends, what are the consequences of wealth accumulation?

傷道，傷做人的本分，「積財傷道」。

It will ruin one's morality and disrupt a person's duty as a human. As the adage states, "One's morality will be ruined once he accumulates wealth."

俗話說的「一家飽暖千家怨」，

Because, "a wealthy and indifferent family will invite resentment among thousands of families."

你們家這麼有錢，旁邊的鄰居都快要餓死了，你還不去救濟他，他們已經對你頗有怨言。

When you are so rich yet your neighbors are about to starve to death, but you are indifferent and not helping them, they would harbor resentment against you!

剛好過幾天你們家失火，會發生什麼情況？

What would happen when your house caught fire a few days later?

他們都站出來(你看人心所向就把真理講出來了)，

Your neighbors would stand forth... Where people's hearts lie, the truth will be revealed.

他們一定會在那里：太好了，蒼天有眼！

They would stand there and say, "Good, it is divine retribution!"

但是，假如你處處都能夠施與他們，可以在生活當中，甚至於在他們子孫的教育當中，你都可以盡一些力量的話，那他們時時感你的恩德。

But if you could always make an effort to help them in every aspect such as in their daily life or even in their children's education, then they would always remember your virtuous kindness.

突然你們家起火了，他們一定跑百米，要去爭著誰先潑了第一桶水，對不對？

If your house was suddenly on fire, they would surely rush to the scene to be the first person to pour the first bucket of water, right?

因為當你是真誠的付出，對方絕對會感受得到，

Because when you contributed sincerely, the other party would surely be able to sense it.

而他一定會念念不忘，只要有機會我一定要回報。

He would always think of repaying your kindness as long as there was an opportunity to do so.

這個叫「愛人者人恒愛之，敬人者人恒敬之」，

This is called, "Those who love others will always be loved by others; those who respect others will always earn others' respect."

所以中國古聖先賢的智慧，我們一定要好好的去體會。

We must carefully deliberate about the wisdom of the ancient saints and sages.

所以錢是通財，中國人說「有水斯有財」，

Money is a shared-wealth; as the Chinese say, "Just like water, wealth should be free-flowing."

水假如不流動就會怎麼樣？就發臭了！錢假如不流動，就會發生副作用。

what would happen if water became stagnant? It would stink! If wealth is not flowing, there will be negative effects too.

這個周姓的商人到他臨終的時候，那個時候是民國初年，他的財產換成大圓是三千萬大圓，有沒有錢？很有錢。

In the early years of the Republic of China, when Mr. Zhou, the businessman, was on the verge of death, his wealth converted to yuan amounted to 30 million. Was he rich? Very rich!

他有十個子孫，他就把三千萬分成十份，每個人三百萬。

As he had ten children and grandchildren, he divided his wealth equally so that each person received 3 million silver taels.

結果聶雲台先生觀察，在短短幾十年當中，他這十個子孫全部都敗掉，所有的錢財都揮霍完，甚至於已經有人走上街頭乞討。

In the end, Mr. Nie Yun Tai observed that in just a few decades, these ten posterity had squandered all the money. Some of them had even started begging in the street.

其中有一、兩個還比較有修養，但是錢財也是都散掉，已經比較有修養了，可是還是留不住錢。

One or two of his offspring were more cultivated yet also squandered all the wealth. They were already more cultivated! But they still failed to retain their wealth!

A Fundamental Teaching from *The Book of Changes*

從這件事我們也體會到,《易經》所言真實不虛,

From this incident, we also realized that the teachings in the *Book of Changes** are truthful. (*Also known as *I Ching*, an influential text read throughout the world, providing inspiration of religion, philosophy, literature, and art.)

《易經》說到「積善之家,必有余慶」,「積不善之家」,就有余殃降臨。

It states, "Families that accumulate goodness will surely have abundant blessings; while families that accumulate unwholesome deeds will surely befall plentiful misfortunes."

從這裡我們也可以了解到,這個人做人還不錯,怎麼禍不單行?

From here, we can also derive that some people are considered not bad, but why do misfortunes still keep befalling them?

有可能祖宗的一些余殃還沒有報盡,這個時候你要鼓勵他行善要堅持,一定可以力挽狂瀾;

Perhaps his ancestors had not yet repaid the retributions completely. At this time, we must encourage him to persevere with his practice of virtuous deeds because that would surely enable him to turn the tide.

等他余殃消盡,絕對會有善報現前。

When his misfortune is completely eliminated, good rewards will definitely manifest.

有這樣的見識才能夠有好的子孫出來,

Only by having such insight would one have good children and grandchildren.

所以曾國藩也好,陳昉也好,都了解到一定要讓子孫習勞,所以都不請任何的傭人。

Both Zeng Guo Fan and Chen Fang knew well that they must let their offspring do chores, so they did not hire any servants.

Family Virtues Even Move Their Dogs

每次吃飯都是七百口的人聚在一起吃,一定相當熱鬧。

At each meal, there were 700 people gathering together to eat, the atmosphere was rather bustling.

他們家養了差不多一百只狗左右,這一百只狗一定要到全部都到了才開動,

Chen Fang's family had raised about a hundred dogs and these dogs were not allowed to start eating until all of the dogs had arrived.

有句話就是敘述這個情況,叫「一犬不至,群犬不食」。

There is one saying which narrates this situation: when one dog has not arrived, the rest of the dogs would not start to eat.

這種孝悌之風感動了他們家的這群狗。

Such spirits of filiality and fraternity had moved the family dogs.

當你是他的鄰居的時候，你看到這一幕會怎麼樣？感動！感動之外？我們可不能連狗都不如，自己還在家里吵吵鬧鬧。

If you were his neighbor, how would you feel when you saw such scene? Touched! (*Audience reply.) Other than feeling touched? We must not be worse than the dogs, still quarreling at home, right?

所以，這個盛況傳到了皇帝的耳朵，皇帝很感動，馬上免去了他們家所有的徭役；

This spectacular case spread to the emperor's ears. The emperor was so moved that he immediately exempted this family's corvee labor*. (*Under the feudal system, compulsory, unpaid labor demanded by a king or emperor.)

就是人民有時候要服些徭役，去幫國家蓋一些工程，皇帝因為覺得他們這個家族是個好榜樣，所以也免除了他的徭役。

At that time, people were imposed on to serve the country with some construction work. The emperor felt this family had set a very good example, so he exempted them from this service.

你看，人的德行會感動狗。

You see, people's virtue can move the dogs.

有些人說：我不相信。現在的人都很難相信這些感應，為什麼？

Some people said, "I don't believe it." People nowadays find it very difficult to believe such telepathy. Why?

因為他們都以小人之心想：我都沒感應，為什麼他們有？都沒有去想到這些聖哲人的存心。Because they use a petty mind to speculate, "I've never had any experience like that, how could they?" They do not think deeper about the sages' intention.

A Filial Heart Moved a Ferocious Tiger

在明朝的時候，有一個讀書人叫包實夫，

During the Ming Dynasty, there was a scholar named Bao Shifu.

他也是在私塾教學，在告一段落的時候，他要回到家里去看他的父母。

He was a teacher in a private school. During the school break, he was going home to visit his parents.

結果走在路上遇到了一只老虎，馬上就把他咬起來，帶到另外一個地方，準備把他吃掉。

On the way home, he encountered a tiger that attacked him and dragged him to another place for its meal.

這個包實夫並沒有驚慌，古代讀書人知道「生死有命，富貴在天」，面對生死不恐慌。

Bao Shifu did not panic because the ancient scholars knew that "Life and death as well as riches and nobility are predestined."

但是很誠懇的就跪下來跟這個老虎說：

He did not panic when facing death but knelt down sincerely and said to the tiger,

我被你吃是我的命，但是因為現在我有七十多歲的父母要奉養，可不可以讓我奉養完父母，我再來讓你吃。

"It is my fate to be eaten by you, but now I need to support my parents who are already in their 70s, could you let me fulfill my filial duties first? I will return to let you eat me later."

這一片孝心讓最兇猛的老虎都感動了，這個老虎就走了。

Such a filial heart had moved the fiercest tiger, so the tiger left!

所以當地的人就把那個地方取了個名字，叫做「拜虎崗」，

The locals then named this place "The Hill of Pleading with Tiger."

就是紀念包實夫在那里求這個老虎，希望讓他能回去奉養父母。

It is to remember that Bao Shifu had pled with the tiger to let him return home to attend to his parents.

連最兇惡的老虎都可以感動，那最忠誠的狗還有什麼困難！

Even the most ferocious tiger can be moved, let alone the most loyal and sincere dog!

不只是動物可以感動，不只是植物可以感動，天地萬物都能感動，

Not only can the animals and plants be moved, everything under heaven and on earth can be moved as well.

所謂「萬物交感，以誠以忠」，

As the saying goes, "All things can communicate and interact with sincerity and loyalty."

真誠到極處，天地都會感動。

With the utmost sincerity, heaven and the earth will all be moved.

A Filial Deed Moved an Earthquakes

在元朝的時候有個讀書人叫李忠，他是孝行已經聞名全國了，

During the Yuan Dynasty, there was a scholar named Li Zhong whose filial deeds had spread throughout the country.

剛好那個時候他所居住的村落发生大地震，結果所有的房子全部都倒塌，震央震過來全倒。

At that time, there was a huge earthquake in his village and all the houses had been flattened. The houses in the epicenter were all flattened.

到他們家的時候，震央變成兩條，然後到他們家經過以後，兩個震央又合成一條。

When the fissure reached his house, it split into two and merged into one again after passing his house.

這是歷史上記載的事實，我們不得不信。

This is a fact recorded in history, we have no reason not to believe it.

所以《中庸》里面有講到「禍福將至」，

It is mentioned in the Doctrine of the Mean, "When misfortune and fortune are coming..."

一個人的禍福，是禍、是福要來的時候，從哪里可以判斷？

From where can we judge one person's misfortune or fortune is approaching?

「禍福將至，善，必先知之，不善，必先知之」。

"When misfortune and fortune are coming, they can certainly be foreseen based on one's good or bad deeds."

假如是善就知道什麼？是福還是禍？福！

If people practice goodness, what will they see coming? Misfortune or fortune? Fortune!

不善，是禍。

If people practice evil deeds, misfortune will come.

所以，他的孝行必然讓他避過這個劫難，

So, his filial deeds must have enabled him to escape the catastrophe.

我們要相信這個真理，讓自己坦坦蕩蕩、光光明明的去走我們的人生。

We must believe in this truth so that we would walk on a frank, open, and bright life-path.

諸位朋友，你有沒有信心你人生必能逢兇化吉？

My friends, do you have confidence that you can turn calamities into blessings in life?

有沒有信心？有！好，來給自己掌聲鼓勵。

Do you have confidence? Yes! (*Audience replies) Good! Give yourself a round of applause.

The Importance of Impartiality

「兄弟睦，孝在中」，

"When siblings get along harmoniously, filial piety already exists in their actions."

人與人如何和睦相處？

How do we interact with others harmoniously?

我們來想想，比方說陳昉的家族住了七百個人，人家還和睦相處，

Let us think about it: take Chen Fang's family as an example. With 700 people staying under one roof, they were still able to get along harmoniously.

我們現在家里幾個人？三個就已經合不了！

How many members are there in modern families? There is already dissension in a family of three. Indeed, we have regressed a lot.

所以確實我們退步不少。甚至於還沒生小孩，兩個夫妻就已經鬧得不可開交的都有。

Even before they have children, the couples have already started quarreling to the extent that some are unable to reconcile with each other.

所以你看，人家能包容七百個人，那可是大學問！

So you see, Chen Fang's family of 700 people were able to accommodate each other; that is indeed great skill and wisdom!

和睦相處是結果，因在哪兒？

Getting along harmoniously is a result, what is the cause?

因在「平等對待」，才能贏得和睦；平等對待，這是因。

The underlying cause is "equal treatment," only then can harmony be achieved. Equal treatment is the cause!

平等，因為「平」所以人心就怎麼樣？也平，人心平才不會有糾紛產生。

When being treated impartially, how would people feel? They will also feel they are treated equally. Only when people feel that they are fairly treated can disputes be eliminated.

所以，教自己的孩子一定要抓住一個原則，絕對要平等的照顧，

So, when educating our own children, we must grasp one principle: we must give equal care to every child.

絕對不能對大兒子好，對小兒子差一點。

We must not treat the eldest son better than the youngest one.

在中國幾千年的歷史，很多因為寵愛某一個孩子，最後造成什麼結果？

Throughout the thousands of years of Chinese history, there were many parents favoring a certain child. What did this result in?

兄弟鬩牆的很多，因為人心不平遲早就會有紛爭。

Internal strife among siblings. When people feel that they are unfairly treated, sooner or later a conflict will occur.

我們再深入去思考，比方說我們現在對這個孩子比較好，對他有沒有幫助？

Let us think deeper: let's say we treat this child better now, would that be of any help to him?

你比較對他好，他一定會對你好，錯了！你對他太過溺愛，他會愈來愈自私，你是害了他；

Is it true since you treat him better, he would certainly treat you well? Wrong! When you spoil him, he would become increasingly selfish, so you are harming him!

那個被我們忽略的孩子，內心就很不平衡，有時候會變得很消極。

The child who has been neglected by you would be psychologically imbalanced and would sometimes become very negative.

你是兩邊都害了，這就太不理智了，所以「平」很重要。

You have harmed both of them; this is too irrational. So, impartiality is all important.

我雖然是家里的獨子，但是我父親對待我們三個孩子很平等，

Even though I am the only son in my family, my parents treat all three of us equally.

比方說給獎金的時候都一樣，也沒有多給我，不然我到時候就會恃寵而驕了。

For example, when they rewarded us, we all received the same amount. If they had given me more, I would have become arrogant.

The First Family of the World

在明朝的時候，有個讀書人叫鄭濂，他們家族是七代同堂。

During the Ming Dynasty, there was a scholar named Zheng Lian. His family, under one roof, consisted of seven generations.

我們這個時代最多是聽過幾代？

In our time, how many generations living together is the most we have heard of?

三代？三代太少了！我在大陸有聽過五代同堂，

Three generations. (*Audience reply) Three generations is too few! I have heard of five generations living together when I was in China.

鄭濂是七代同堂。

For Zheng Lian, there were seven generations living together.

明太祖朱元璋很佩服他，頒了個匾額給他，叫做「天下第一家」。

Emperor Ming Tai Zu had great admiration for him and awarded him with a plaque called, The First Family of the World.

多少人？千余人，一千個人左右。

How many people were there in his family? Over one thousand people.

頒了這個匾額，還送了他兩顆大水梨，

Other than awarding the plaque, the emperor also gave him two large pears.

明太祖也很有意思，他想說：我送兩顆大水梨，看看你一千個人怎麼分？

Emperor Ming Tai Zu was a very interesting figure, he wanted to see how Zheng Lian would share these two pears with a thousand people.

還派了錦衣衛跟在後面，去看看鄭濂怎麼處理這件事。

He also sent the imperial secret guard to follow behind and see how Zheng Lian dealt with this affair.

諸位朋友，你會怎麼處理？我們想一下，下一節課來討論，謝謝大家。

My dear friends, how would you deal with it? Okay, let's think about it and we will discuss it in the next class. Thank you all for listening.