

細講弟子規 第三十集

Confucius Teachings On Building A Happy Life (30)

- a foundation for Mahayana Buddhism practice

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Cleverness Vs. Deception

諸位朋友，大家好！我們剛剛講到：

Hello my friends! We just mentioned that

【奸巧語。穢汙詞。市井氣。切戒之。】

“Cunning words and foul language, such vulgar manners must be prohibited.”

假如我們能夠在家庭經營一個很好的談話風氣，那家庭氣氛就會很好。

If we can manage a good conversation pattern in the family, then the family atmosphere will be great.

那我們假如是一個團體，一個企業的負責人也要常常口吐蓮花，讓所有的同仁在談話當中，都可以如沐春風，

If we are the person in charge in a group or company, we must always say kind and beneficial words so that all our colleagues will feel very comfortable as if bathing in a spring breeze during conversations.

可以互相鼓勵、互相肯定。

Furthermore, they can mutually encourage and acknowledge each other.

我們要帶動這樣的談話風氣。

We have to initiate and promote such an atmosphere of conversation.

那假如是一個團體領導人，是一個政府領導人，他談話的時候都是對別人的漫罵，挖人家的隱私，都是這些攻訐的言詞，

If the leader of a group or government always utters offensive words such as scolding people and digging into others' privacy,

雖然逞了一時之快，那流弊、往後不好的影響確實很難估算。

though he may feel pleased for a moment, it is really difficult to estimate the long-lasting detriment and influence it will cause in the future.

因為小孩子沒有好壞判斷能力，看到領導人都這麼說話，那我也應該可以。

Since children do not have the ability to discern right from wrong, they will think that they can do whatever the leaders do.

所以後面的後果就很難收拾。

So, it will be very difficult to clean up the consequences.

俗話說「公門好修行」，

As the saying goes, “Working in the government sector is very good for cultivation.”

因為處在公門影響的面都很大，一言可以興邦，一言會喪邦。

Due to their far-reaching influence, their words can either make a nation prosper or ruin it.

所以我們當領導者不得不在言語當中，要多加謹慎、多加考慮。

As leaders, we have to be more cautious with our words and think more carefully.

只要我們有這個態度，相信也可以在言語當中，帶動社會的良好風氣。

As long as we have this attitude, I believe we can also create a very good social atmosphere with our speech.

『奸巧語』。這個「奸」是欺騙、是機巧。

“Cunning words” here connotes “deceptive” and “clever.”

那為什麼要用奸跟巧？

Why would someone want to be deceptive and clever?

就是為了把自己的言語過錯，自己沒有守信用的過失掩蓋起來。

Because they want to cover up their erroneous speech and the promises they have failed to keep.

所以孩子他假如用奸巧語，他就有可能是在撒謊。

If children use cunning words, they may be lying.

能撒謊的孩子聰不聰明？

Are such children smart?

不聰明還撒不出謊。

If they are not, they would not be able to lie.

有一個初中生，因為跟同學常常攀比，

There was a junior high school student who often compared himself to his classmates.

所以都喜歡買貴的東西，母親不讓他買。

So, he liked to buy expensive things but his mother would not let him do so.

有一天說要配名牌眼鏡，他媽媽不肯，說：

One day, he told his mother that he wanted to buy a pair of designer eyeglasses but his mother refused, saying,

你本來就有一副了，還配？

“You already have a pair, what do you need another one for?”

媽媽不給他配，他就自己去，去了一會兒回來了，配好了，

Despite his mother’s refusal, he still went to get the new glasses himself. When he came home, he was wearing the new glasses.

然後跟他媽媽說：去付錢！

He said to his mother, “You should go and pay the money.”

聰不聰明？他可以不用帶一兵一卒，不用帶什麼錢，就可以講得讓對方相信他媽媽會來付錢。

Was he smart? All by himself, with no money on him, he could make the other party believe that his mother would come and pay for the glasses.

所以很多家長，小孩子反應很好，他都說：好聰明！

Many parents who have a “highly responsive” child say, “Such a smart kid!”

我很怕聽到小孩子好聰明，

Hearing about people’s “smart kids” frightens me.

小孩要的是樸實、是忠厚。

Children should be simple, loyal, and honest.

現在的小孩聰明都用到哪？

Where do children today use their cleverness?

用到撒謊，用到達到他的目的。

They use it to lie and get what they want.

比方說，有個小女孩跟她父親走在回家的路上，路上有好幾家冰店。

For example, a little girl was walking home with her father and they passed by several shaved ice shops along the way.

她走在第一家冰店就稍為腳步放緩，就跟她父親說：

When she reached the first shop, she slowed down her footsteps a little and said to her father, 天氣怎麼這麼熱。

“Why is it so hot out?”

她父親還沒反應過來，走到第二家，小女孩說：

Since her father had not gotten her meaning, she then said to her father when they reached the second shop,

這個時候有一支冰吃多好！

“It would be great to have some shaved ice right now.”

走到最後一家，小女孩就說：這是最後一家。

When they reached the final shop, she exclaimed, “This is the last shop!”

聰明都用到哪去？

Where did she use her cleverness?

都沒用到聖賢教誨上去，都用到達到她的目的。

Instead of using it on the sages’ teachings, she used it to achieve her objective.

所以重利輕義，

This is “valuing material gain over righteousness.”

當孩子的思惟都是自私自利，

When children’s thoughts are on personal interest and benefit,

他的成長過程一點一滴道義都會慢慢消退掉。

every bit of their moral responsibility will gradually diminish as they grow up.

所以孩子的聰明是用在當孝子，當好學生，當好公民，那才是用對了地方。

When children’s cleverness is used to become a filial child, a good student, and a good citizen, only then have they used it correctly.

很多小孩在耍小聰明，大人還笑呵呵。這樣對不對？不對。

Is it proper for the adults to laugh when many children try to be clever? No!

所以孩子撒謊有幾種可能我們要擅於觀察。

When it comes to children lying, there are several possibilities we must carefully observe.

當孩子初犯，我們要慎於開始，要很謹慎。

We must make a cautious start as soon as they make a mistake.

所以孩子很可能因為要貪圖利益，撒謊，貪圖利益。

Very likely they lie because they want something.

有一個孩子回來跟他爸爸要兩塊人民幣，

There was a child who came home and asked his father to give him two yuan.

結果他父親順手拿了一張兩塊錢的錢幣給他。

His father casually handed a two-yuan bill to him.

他說：爸爸，我不要一張，我要兩張一塊的。

He said, "Dad, I don't want a two-yuan bill, I want two one-yuan bills."

他爸爸很納悶，就是兩塊錢，怎麼還要分成這樣？

Perplexed, his father asked, "It's two yuan, what difference does it make if it's one or two bills?"

他就跟爸爸說：爸爸，我只要拿一次錢去訓導處就可以得十分，

He said to his father, "Dad, I can earn ten points once I take money to the disciplinary office.

所以你給我一張兩塊的，我只能得十分；

So, if you give me one two-yuan bill, I can only earn ten points.

你給我兩張一塊的，我可以拿去說我撿到的，我可以得二十分。

But if you give me two one-yuan bills, I can tell them that I found it and earn twenty points."

他爸爸聽了怎麼樣？我兒子怎麼這麼聰明。

After hearing this, what did his father think? "How is my son so smart?"

結果又去講給一個教育官員聽，這教育官員全身起雞皮疙瘩。

When he told an education officer about this, the officer had goosebumps all over his body.

這個父親也夠沒有教育敏感度，

This father really had no educational sensitivity;

還覺得他很聰明。孩子已經公然撒謊。

he was still thinking that his son was very clever even though the child had blatantly lied.

所以現在家長還覺得會撒謊是本事，那可就麻煩。

Nowadays some people still think lying is a skill; that is trouble.

所以這是一種情況。

So, this is one situation.

現在學校比方說有募捐的活動，我們也要適時引導小孩正確的觀念。

Let us say there are fundraising events in school now; we also need to appropriately guide children towards proper concepts.

有一次學校推出這種貧困救助，有一個孩子要捐款。

Once, a school launched a poverty relief program. A child wanted to donate money.

他媽媽就問他要捐多少，

His mother asked, "How much do you want to donate?"

孩子想一想七塊兩毛錢。

The child thought for a while and said, "Seven yuan and twenty cents."

多不多？不多。

Was this a big sum? No!

但是那是他全部的積蓄他把它捐出來，自己捐。

But that was all of his savings. He was donating all of it, by himself.

結果其它的同學都是爸爸媽媽捐，都是三百，都是五百。

With his classmates it was their parents donating the money, perhaps three to five hundred yuan.

結果這個孩子的心怎麼樣？我才捐七塊二，都沒有人看到他的真心。

As a result, how did this child feel? "I only donated seven yuan and twenty cents." Nobody had noticed his sincerity.

結果這個捐五百、捐一千的，五百可以帶一朵小紅花，一千塊可以點一支蠟燭。

As for those who had donated five hundred or one thousand yuan, five hundred earned you a small red flower to wear and one thousand let you light a candle.

所以很有可能我們本來是要辦善事，在這個辦的過程當中，讓孩子學到什麼？

We may originally intend to do charity, but what have children learned in the process of running such events?

可能虛榮心都加進去了，

The children might develop a sense of vanity.

而且又不是拿自己的錢，是拿家長的錢來顧什麼？

Moreover, they were not taking their own money but that of their parents.

不只是小孩要面子，很有可能誰也要？父母。

Not only did these children seek personal glory, perhaps who else also wished for it? Parents.

其中有一個家長，她馬上就捐了幾千塊，結果學校發個小紅花給她戴，她沒戴。

One of the parents donated a few thousand yuan right away but refused to wear the small red flower given by the school.

她說善心都是自己願意做的，又不是要出去炫耀表揚，還頒獎狀。

She said, "Good deeds should be done voluntarily and aren't meant to be used to show off, let alone receive an award."

所以這一位母親也很有敏感度。

This mother was also very sensitive.

假如她就這樣大搖大擺戴著那一朵大紅花去，那她又怎麼樣教育她的孩子行善不欲人知，

Had she worn the red flower proudly, how could she educate her child to practice virtuous deeds silently?

行善是我們每個人的本分。所以教育所產生的效果，為人父母者，為人老師者，要細細去推敲才行，

Doing charity is everyone's duty, so parents and teachers must carefully consider the effects of education;

不然會染上這種虛名，就不好。

or else it would be bad to infect ourselves with such illusive fame.

Credibility is Not a Game

孩子撒謊很有可能覺得好玩，

Secondly, children lie probably because they think it is fun.

一開始給你騙一下，你也笑一笑，他也笑一笑。

When they deceive you in the beginning, both you and they may laugh.

那他就覺得怎麼樣？很有意思。

So what would they think? Lying is fun.

你看很多綜藝節目在玩弄別人，大家哈哈大笑，

You see a lot of shows trick people yet everyone has a good laugh.

所以孩子覺得欺騙別人很好玩，這都是誤導。

That is why children also feel that deceiving others is fun. These are all misleading.

所以我們也非常熟悉一個故事，叫狼來了。

We are very familiar with one story, "The Boy Who Cried Wolf."

這個故事你講給幼兒園孩子聽就很有效果。

Telling this story to kindergarten children is very effective.

你就告訴他，這個孩子他守著一群小羊，結果他自己覺得很無聊，就大喊：狼來了！狼來了！

You can tell them that this shepherd boy was guarding a flock of sheep but later felt very bored and shouted, "The wolf is coming! The wolf is coming!"

所有的村民都非常樸實，也很願意幫助別人，

All the villagers were very simple and willing to help others,

統統都來要幫他把狼趕走。結果一看一只狼也沒有。

they all came to help him chase the wolf away, but they saw not a single wolf.

他看別人忙成這樣，自己還在那裏哈哈大笑。

When he saw the villagers were so busy coming to help, he even laughed at them.

結果後來村民都回去了。

Then all the villagers went home.

第二次他又開玩笑，又欺騙別人，第二次沒來那麼多人，

Later, he played the joke a second time and deceived them again;

不過也來了不少。又看又是他開人家的玩笑，所以村民又回去。

not as many people came this time, but there were still quite a few. When the villagers

realized that they had been tricked again, they went home again.

第三次狼真的怎麼樣？來了。

What happened the third time? The wolf really came.

那時候他大喊狼來了，狼來了。

He screamed, "The wolf has come! The wolf has come!"

有沒有人來？沒人來。

Did anyone come? No one came.

小朋友，沒人來以後會怎麼樣？羊會怎麼樣？他會怎麼樣？

Dear children, what happened when no one came to his rescue? What happened to his sheep?
What happened to him?

吃了不要講，讓小孩自己去想，好恐怖，記憶深刻。

Do not tell the children that they were eaten, let them figure it out for themselves— “How terrifying!” It will make a strong impression.

所以小孩假如因為好玩撒謊，一定要適時的製止，不能再犯。

Therefore, if children lie for fun, we must stop them in time so that they will not repeat it again.

第三個小孩有可能因為逞能而說謊，還有掩過飾非、

Thirdly, children probably lie to parade their ability and also to conceal their faults.

父母影響，

Finally, they are also influenced by parents.

我們要適時去觀察。

We must observe them in due course.

逞能，因為他要炫耀，所以就把話講得很誇張。

Parade one's ability is usually because they want to show off, so they exaggerate when they speak.

你注意去聽看看，有些八、九歲，十歲的孩子會攀比，

When you pay attention, you will notice that some eight to ten-year-old children will make comparisons and brag about things their family owns,

我們家有什麼？有電腦，有數位數碼相機。

“We have a computer, we have a digital camera!”

這就愈說愈誇張，

The more they speak the more they exaggerate.

我們當老師的要謹慎，適時去製止。

As teachers we must be prudent and stop them in a timely manner.

在宋朝的時候有一位名臣叫司馬光。

During the Song Dynasty (960-1279) there was a famous minister named Sima Guang.

有一次，他跟他姐姐在比剝核桃，

Once, he was competing with his sister to see who could peel walnuts faster.

結果都剝得很慢。他們家的仆人就跟他說，你用熱水燙一燙就很好剝。

He was slow at peeling, so one of their family's servants said to him, “Soak them in hot water and they will be easier to peel.”

司馬光去拿熱水來燙，剛好他的姐姐離開一段時間又回來，看他剝得好順，就說：

Sima Guang did as suggested. His sister, who had just returned after being away for a while saw him peeling so well and said,

弟弟，你怎麼這麼厲害，誰教你的？

“Brother, why are you so smart? Who taught you this method?”

司馬光說，我自己學會的。

Sima Guang replied, “I figured it out by myself!”

結果剛好他父親走過去，假如你是父親你會怎麼做？

His father happened to walk by. If you were the father, what would you do?

很多時候我們可能不經意就把這個忘記了。

Many times, we may forget this inadvertently.

那可能一開始撒謊，往後就怎麼樣？有一就有二。

Having lied once, children might repeat it in the future.

因為他逞能沒被發現，他還覺得自己很了不起，就麻煩。

When their boastful talk goes unnoticed they may become conceited.

所以他父親當場就跟他說：

This will be trouble! So, his father said to him on the spot,

有多少本事就說多少話，不是自己剝的絕對不能誇大。

“Just be honest with your own ability. Never exaggerate when you didn’t figure it out by yourself.”

所以由於父親在他第一次犯錯就給予嚴厲的指責，這是正確的教誨。

His father reproached him severely the first time he committed this wrongdoing; this is the correct teaching.

後來司馬光一生非常坦坦蕩蕩，

Later, Sima Guang was very frank and open all his life.

所以他也曾經講過「平生所為之事，無有不可語人者」。

He also once said, “There is nothing I have done in my life which can’t be told to others.”

這是結果，我們也要看到原因，是因為什麼？

This is the result, we must recognize the cause. What was the reason?

父母正確、適時的指導，決非偶然。

It is due to his parents’ proper and timely guidance. The effect was absolutely not by chance. 這是逞能的情況。

So this is “parading one’s ability.”

下一個掩過飾非。

Next is “conceal one’s fault with slick words.”

很多孩子一犯錯，他會有一點緊張，一緊張，可能就怕被大人發現。

Many children will feel a little nervous as soon as they make a mistake, so they will be afraid to let the adults find out.

所以有一次有一個孩子把衣架弄壞了，其實衣架弄壞好不好修？

Once, a child broke a clothes hanger. Actually, is it difficult to repair a broken hanger? 一弄就回來了。

No, it can be easily fixed.

但是他們不懂，就很緊張，怕被處罰。

But he did not know it and was very nervous because he was afraid of being punished.

所以就跟旁邊的同學說，不要告訴老師，

He said to the classmate beside him, “Do not tell the teachers.”

結果剛好老師就在旁邊，馬上就過來，他嚇一跳。

His teacher who happened to be nearby came over at once, startling the student.

孩子都還小，只要你適時的教導他，他馬上觀念就轉過來。

As children are still little, they will change their mindsets immediately as long as we give them timely guidance and instructions.

後來老師馬上跟他說

The teacher immediately said to him,

「無心非，名為錯；有心非，名為惡」。

“‘Doing wrong unintentionally is called making a mistake, while doing wrong intentionally is called committing an evil.’

所以弄壞衣架不嚴重，不告訴老師才嚴重，

Breaking a hanger is not serious, but if you don't tell your teacher, it is really bad.

你以後就贏不了老師對你的信任。

You will not be able to earn the teacher's trust if you do so.

所以錯了就要承認，

So, we have to admit our faults.

「過能改，歸於無」。

‘If I correct my faults, the faults will no longer exist.’”

然後就接著跟他說，你犯的錯改過來，而且又能學到如何把一個東西再把它修好。

The teacher continued, “Now you can correct the mistake and also learn to repair a broken item.”

這老師也很有耐性，陪他一起把它弄好。

This teacher was also very patient and fixed the hanger together with him.

所以這個機會點我們掌握好，孩子可能就此能建立正確的態度。

If we grasp this opportunity well, children may be able to establish the right attitude.

所以當孩子在掩過飾非，我們也要仔細去觀察，

When children cover up their mistakes, we must carefully observe it;

不能讓他養成習慣就麻煩。

we should not let them form a habit or else it will be trouble.

最後，父母的影響。

The last reason is being influenced by parents.

有一片電影叫手機，

There is a movie called *Mobile Phone*.

手機裏面有統計一個數字，說一個成人一天講的謊話有多少？

This phone showed the number of lies told by an adult in one day. How many were there?

有二十五次，二十五次謊。

There were twenty-five lies a day.

所以大人在一天當中講這麼多次謊，那小孩潛移默化。

Since adults told so many lies in a day, children were affected unknowingly.

比方說，這個媽媽在接電話，兒子也在，爸爸也在。電話接起來：我先生不在。

For instance, a mother answers the phone and even though both the son and husband are at home, she tells the caller, “My husband isn't around.”

那小孩說：爸爸在，怎麼會不在？

Her son would say, “Dad is around. How is he not home?”

小孩都聽蒙了。所以小孩在的地方絕對不可以撒謊，

He would be confused. So, never lie in the presence of children.

小孩不在的地方也不能撒謊。

When they are absent you still should not lie.

所以我們之前也有提到一個觀察，要學會拒絕。

We have also mentioned one concept before: learning to reject.

你不學會拒絕，人家就不知道你為人的分寸，你生活的原則。

If you do not learn this skill, people will not know your standard rules of conduct and your principles of life.

只要你該拒絕的拒絕，你的朋友就會順著你的原則跟你交往，

As long as you refuse when it is necessary, your friends will accord with your principles to associate with you.

何必在那裏遮遮掩掩？

Why do you need to hide?

累死自己，後來還被人誤會，

It is too tiring and will cause others to misunderstand you.

說你怎麼可以不守信？或者怎麼可以躲我？

They might say, “Why didn’t you keep your promise? Why did you avoid me?”

那就把本來很單純的事情搞得怎麼樣？挺複雜的。

Then, you have made the originally simple matter rather complicated.

這是「奸巧語」，

This is considered “cunning words.”

我們要註意孩子撒謊的情況。『穢汗詞，市井氣，切戒之』。

We must pay attention to children’s lies and foul language; such vulgar manners must be prohibited.

言語行為當中能守信，

When children are trustworthy in speech and deed,

這已經奠定孩子往後在社會會有很好的發展。

they have already laid the foundation for very good development in society in the future.

我們有一個朋友，小時候看到別人在吃棒冰，

I have a friend who as a child, upon seeing other people eating popsicles,

忍不住那個誘惑就去偷了爸爸一點點錢，跑去買雪糕吃。

could not resist the temptation and stole a small sum of his father’s money to buy ice cream.

他爸爸眼睛也很厲害，看到了，馬上跟著他後面一瞧究竟。

His father’s eyes were very sharp. He trailed behind him to see what would happen.

結果他買好，正準備大快朵頤，抬起頭來看到誰？

After buying the ice cream, when he was about to gorge himself on it, he raised his head and who did he see?

看到他爸爸，直發抖。

He saw his father and started trembling.

他爸爸話也沒說，把他帶到家裏，吊起來，狠狠的修理一頓。

Without saying a word, his father took him home, hung him up, and punished him fiercely once and for all.

註意聽「一頓」

Please pay attention to “once and for all.”

以後還有沒有？沒有。

Was there a second time in the future? Never!

第一次讓他記住了，終身不忘。

The first lesson made him remember it for life.

打到他經過那個放錢的地方都會發抖，不敢再輕舉妄動。

He was beaten so badly that he shivered whenever he passed by the place where the money was kept and he never again dared to act rashly.

後來他長大，到其它的地區去工作，也離家裏有一段距離，

Later when he grew up, he worked in another region, some distance from home.

都是住在老板家裏的宿舍。所以那時候他住在宿舍裏，早上起來也會幫忙打掃，

Since he was staying in his employer's house, he helped clean every morning.

在這個打掃的過程，突然發現地上有一百塊、兩百塊，

While cleaning, he suddenly found one or two hundred dollars on the floor.

他就把它撿起來，就拿給老板娘。

He picked it up and returned it to the boss's wife.

過一陣子，奇怪怎麼變三百塊、五百塊？

After a while, he was surprised to find three to five hundred dollars.

他又把它撿起來拿給老板娘。

He picked it up again and gave it to the boss's wife.

他說曾經最高還有超過上千塊。

He said that he once picked up more than a thousand dollars.

後來他在這一家公司工作，他的學歷不高，

When he was working in this company, though his level of education was low,

但是老板都把很好的機會，進修的管道，都讓他破例參加。

the boss made an exception and let him participate in some advanced job training programs.

很多都是大學生才可以去，但是老板都讓他去。

Many of the courses were only for college graduates, but his boss still let him attend.

在這個公司服務了很多年，也表現很好。

He had been working there for many years and his performance was very good.

後來自己要出去開店，也跟他老板辭行。

Later, he decided to open a shop and bid farewell to his boss.

老板就請他吃飯，給他餞行。

The boss treated him to a farewell dinner.

後來吃完了，他就跟老板說：我有一件事想要請教一下。

After the meal, he said to his boss, “I have something to ask you.

他說：你們家為什麼常常可以撿到錢？

Why did I often find money on the floor of your house?"

老板就笑了。

The boss laughed and said,

他說：你一個外人住到我們家來，我怎麼知道你的品行如何？所以那些錢是故意放的。

"Since you were an outsider staying in our house and we didn't know your morals, we intentionally placed the money there."

所以一個人的德行假如不好，很有可能在某一個點上就把一個好的機會斷送掉了。

So if a person is immoral, he will very likely lose very good opportunities at certain points in life.

所以信用跟一個人的生命同等重要。

Therefore, credibility is as important as one's life.

所以「奸巧語，穢汗詞；市井氣，切戒之」。

That is why "Cunning words and foul language, such vulgar manners must be prohibited."

我們接著看下一句經文，我們一起把它念一遍：

Let's look at the next verse and recite it together once,

【見未真。勿輕言。

"When I am unsure of what I am seeing, I will not lightly speak of it.

知未的。勿輕傳。

When I am still unsure of what I know, I will not hastily spread it.

事非宜。勿輕諾。

I must not agree to do something inappropriate,

苟輕諾。進退錯。

if I do, I will put myself into a dilemma.

凡道字。重且舒。勿急疾。勿模糊。

Whenever I speak, I must say it gracefully with sincerity; neither hasten nor blur.

彼說長。此說短。不關己。莫閑管。】

When hearing gossip here and there, I will not get involved if it does not concern me."

第一句『見未真，勿輕言』。

"When I am unsure of what I am seeing, I will not lightly speak of it."

當我們還沒有看到事實真相，只是聽別人片面之詞，絕對不可以把這個話再傳出去。

When we do not know the truth and have only heard one side of the story, we must not spread what we have heard.

這是一個很重要謹慎的態度。

This cautious attitude is very important.

假如你沒有確定，它可能是謠言，那你這麼又一傳出去，自己就變成幫兇。

If you are unsure whether it is a rumor, you will become an accomplice when you spread it.

所以團體要以和為貴，絕對不可再惹是非，

A group must regard harmony as the most prized virtue and never stir up trouble.

這個共識很重要。

This consensus is very important.

所以團體需要的是包容，而不是攻訐，而不是漫罵。

Therefore, what is needed in a group is inclusivity, not attacking and censoring.

所以古代對於言語很謹慎，

That is why the ancients were very prudent with their speech.

因為往往亂之所生，言語就好像那個階梯一樣，一句一句讒言慢慢就製造了動亂。

Because when chaos arises, every slander will act like a ladder and slowly escalate turmoil.

所以「君聽臣當誅」，

It is said, “When the monarch listens to calumny, his ministers get executed.”

當國君的假如聽了讒言，臣子就要遭殃了。

If the monarch listened to slanderous talk, his ministers suffered for it.

「父聽子當訣」，

“When the father listens to calumny, the son gets segregated from him.”

父親假如聽了後母的讒言，聽了別人的讒言，可能他的孩子都遭殃，骨肉之情都有可能會決裂。

If the father were to listen to the stepmother’s or others’ slander, his son might suffer and the ties of kinship might break up.

夫妻聽讒言，「夫妻聽之離，朋友聽之疏」。

“When husband and wife listen to calumny, they get divorced; when friends hear calumny, they become estranged.”

朋友假如聽進讒言，慢慢就會疏離，

If friends listened to defamation, they would slowly become alienated;

夫妻可能就會分離。

if spouses listened to malicious talk, they might get separated.

所以我們對讒言要很謹慎，要註意。

So, we must be very careful and pay attention to this.

來說是非者。

It is said, “Those who gossip about others...”

一個有修養的人，會不會說長道短？

Would a true practitioner talk about others’ good and bad points?

他希望的就是人與人和睦相處。

What he hopes is that people can get along harmoniously.

很可能你跟某一個人有一些不愉快，

Perhaps when you have some unhappy experiences with someone,

他可能會過來告訴你，其實對方上一次也滿稱贊你的。

he may come and tell you, “The other party actually really praised you last time.”

讓你的氣消退一點，

This would cause your anger to subside a little.

退一步就怎麼樣？海闊天空，

What will happen when you take a step back? You will feel free and easy.

其實忍耐一些氣，那一些脾氣，那都是空的。

In fact, the resentment that one harbors is an illusion.

只要調節調節互相讓一下、互相體諒一下，就沒事。

So long as both parties can adjust, yield, and be considerate of each other, everything will be fine.

最怕的就是加油再添醋就麻煩。

It would be a problem if someone were to embellish the story.

所以古代就有提到對於讒言要謹慎的一段詩。

There was a poem in ancient times alerting us to be careful of calumny, which said, 說到「堂堂七尺軀，莫聽三寸舌，

“You, of an imposing seven-foot stature, listen not to the three-inch tongue;

舌上有龍泉，殺人不見血」。

there is a sword on the tongue that can kill without spilling blood.

所以一個家、一個團體，甚至一個國要能相處得好，我們其中的分子對於讒言一定要懂得辨別。

For members of a family, a group, and even a country to get along well, we must be able to recognize slander.

所以「見未真」，

“When I am unsure of what I am seeing...”

假如他在說某一個人的是非，你跟這個人也頗有交情，這個時候當然你不能把這一段話傳出去。

If someone is gossiping about someone whom you have a very good relationship with, of course you must not spread these words.

那我們應該怎麼做？

What should you do?

畢竟你也聽到了，總不能視而不見。

After all you have heard and cannot turn a blind eye.

所以可以去跟這一位朋友說，現在外面是這樣傳言，我們用一個真誠心去跟他講。

You can tell this friend, “There is such a rumor floating around now.” Be sincere when you tell him.

講了以後，假如沒有這回事，那我們就安慰安慰他。所以只要你沒有做，遲早日久見人心。

If he denies it, you can comfort him by saying, “As long as you didn’t do it, time will eventually reveal a person’s heart.”

那假如這個傳言確實還有幾分真實，那我們也要適當趕快要規勸他：

If this rumor is indeed somewhat true, then we must quickly advise him appropriately.

人的名譽在團體當中特別重要，我們應該趕快收斂一點。

You can say, “A person’s reputation is particularly important in a group, so we should quickly restrain ourselves a little.”

所以不管是讒言，還是說人家的壞話，都到我們這裏適可而止。

Whether we hear slander or gossip about others, we must stop spreading the words right away.

所以讀書明理的人，縱使聽到的是事實，

An educated and sensible person, even if what he hears is true,

而這個事實攸關團體的和諧，攸關一個人的名節，他也會避口不談，

if the truth is related to the group's harmony and a person's reputation, he will not speak of it.

所謂隱惡揚善。

This is so-called "promoting goodness and concealing badness."

當你是隱惡揚善，對方有一點好你就贊嘆他，對方一些不好的你不說，

When you praise the little positive points of that person and never reveal some of his faults,

但是從你的威儀當中，他也知道你知道。所以在這個當下他會感受到，

and from your manner, he is aware that you know it, he will then be able to feel it and think to himself,

我做一點好，人家就稱贊我；我做不好，人家也沒指責我，

"I'm praised when I do a little good, but they never blame me when I do wrong."

慢慢的他就會往做好的這個方向去前進。

In this way, he will gradually move in the direction of doing good.

所以這都是人情當中的一個分寸。

This is one standard code of conduct in human relationships.

Do Not Speak Rashly

那「見未真，勿輕言」，

"When I am unsure of what I am seeing, I will not rashly speak of it."

我們也要常常提升我們對於事理的判斷能力。

We must constantly improve our ability to judge the truth,

因為假如你判斷不對，有可能你會好心行了壞事。

because your good intention may turn into badness if you judge wrong.

因為現在很多團體打著善良、打著公益的名號在幹什麼？

What are many groups doing now in the name of kindness and charity?

在騙錢。

Cheating people out of money!

假如你都不了解這個團體好不好，你見未真，

If you do not know whether this group is good or bad, that is, "I am unsure of what I am seeing,"

馬上又帶一大堆人來幫忙、來捐錢，

and bring a lot of people there to help out and donate money right away,

到最後是騙人的，那我們就很難跟這些朋友交代。

but it turns out they are cheating people, then it will be very difficult for you to explain to these friends.

所以還是要謹慎，先觀察清楚。

So, we must be prudent by carefully observing the group first.

像我們是在推展中國文化，

For example, we are now promoting sages' teachings,

很多人也會說我在推展中國文化，掛羊頭可能賣狗肉，是為了賺他的錢。
many people will also claim the same thing while their actual goal is to make money.
所以可能一、二個小時談話下來，其中會提到中國文化很好，接著就講他的話。
He might mention how excellent the sages' teachings are during the first one to two hours of conversation, but change to his own topic later.
那我們在底下的人聽完會覺得講得真好，就會怎麼樣？
After listening, the audience would think, "Great lecture!" Then what?
開始傳，因為群眾的情緒很容易帶動起來。
Word would start to spread. The mood of the masses is easily spurred on,
那你這麼樣稱贊說那個講得很好，可能所有的人還誤以為他真的講得很好，
when you praise him like that, everyone may mistakenly think that he really speaks very well.
可能都去跟他買很多東西，就達到他的目的。
They may then buy a lot of things from him, and he will have reached his goal.

其實我們要判斷，他假如是真正在弘揚中國文化，他一定會抓到中國文化教誨的核心。
In fact, we must judge if he was really promoting sages' teachings. If he does, he would definitely catch its core teaching.

在哪裏？從哪裏落實？

What is the core of sage teachings? Where should we start to implement it?

從入則孝，「夫孝德之本也」

From "Being Filial to Parents at Home." "Filial piety is the foundation of all virtues.",
假如講了兩個小時連一個「孝」字都沒有提，連一個「德行」都沒有提。你還在那邊：講得真好。

If he talks for two hours without even mentioning "filial piety" or "virtuous deeds" once, and you still praise him,

這樣一傳出去就可能誤導其它的人。

other people may be misled when the word spreads.

所以我們要用理智去判斷，這樣才不會以善心行了惡事，也才不會讓一些有心人有機可乘。

Only by being rational in our judgement will we not let our wholesome intention turn into badness and prevent people with ill intentions from taking advantage.

所以現在我們也要考慮到，先把一個團體判斷清楚，再與人談論，

So, now we have to first judge a group clearly before telling other people about them.

這樣才是比較不會有不好的情況發生，這是「見未真，勿輕言」。

In this way bad situations are less likely to occur. This is "When I am unsure of what I am seeing, I will not rashly speak of it."

那「見未真，勿輕言」，

Speaking of "When I am unsure of what I am seeing,"

我還剛好有一位朋友，他也是聽別人談了很多他一個朋友的情況。

I have a friend who has listened to others saying a lot of bad things about his friend.

都是講他朋友不好的，但是他當然沒有傳出去，他是當面去問這個朋友。

Of course, he did not spread it but clarified with his friend in person.

就把外面的傳言有哪些情況都告訴他，然後問他這是真的嗎？

He told his friend about the rumors outside and asked him whether they were true.

直接讓當事人來解釋一下當時的情境究竟如何？

He directly let that person explain the situation.

所以這一位朋友這麼做是很有理智的，不會人雲亦雲。

The way this friend dealt with matters was very rational as he would not simply follow the herd.

所以當人用這一分理智去應對，就讓這些謠言沒有機會可以來散播。

When people use such rationality to deal with matters, those rumors will have no chance to spread.

「知未的，勿輕傳」，

“When I am still unsure of what I know, I will not hastily spread it.”

我們對於很多的道理還沒有了解透徹，對於一些事實還沒有清楚，不可以輕易去講給別人聽。

When we do not yet thoroughly understand many truths and are not clear about some facts, we should not rashly tell them to others.

怕的他先入為主，我們又講錯了，

Since the first impression will dominate one's thinking,

就把人家誤導到不對的路上去，這樣就很不好。

he will be led down the wrong path if we tell someone the wrong thing, which is very bad.

比方說，我們現在有讀經典，這個時候人家問你，

Let us say we are now studying the classics and someone asks you,

讀經要從哪一本開始讀？

“Which classic should I start with?”

你說《弟子規》，因為在現在這個時代十個人有十個看法。

You answer, “*Dizigui*.” In this day and age, each person has a different opinion,

所以我們如何確定我們的看法是對的？

how can we ensure that our view is correct?

可以從經典找答案。為什麼叫經？

The answer can be found in the classics. The Chinese word for “classic” is the same as the word for “longitude.” Why do we call the classics “longitudes”?

我們看地球有經線、有緯線。

We see that the earth has longitudes and latitudes;

所以經緯的重點就在可以當作標準，不會改變。

the longitudes and latitudes are used as a standard for position and will not change.

所以經典就是亙古不變的真理。

Therefore, it signifies that the classics are eternal truths.

你只要從經典上找，你就有信心，確實如此。

As long as you use the classics as the benchmark, you will have confidence that it indeed complies with the truth.

所以一個人跟你說德行的根本在哪？他假如跟「孝」的答案不一樣，你就可以判斷他講的怎麼樣？錯。

So, if someone says the foundation of virtue is something other than “filial piety,” how can you judge his answer? It is wrong.

所以在現在這個時代要守住「依法不依人」，

In this era we have to hold fast to the principle of “Relying on the Dharma and not the people.”

不然你會聽得亂七八糟。

Or else we will get confused by what we hear.

依法不依人！

“Relying on the Dharma and not the people.”

所以當我們，比方說依照《三字經》的教誨，

In this respect, when we follow the teachings of the *Three Character Classic* for instance, 很多那種似是而非的觀念你馬上就剔除掉。

we can immediately get rid of many specious notions.

比方說「人之初，性本善；

For example, the classic states, “Primordially, people have an inherent good nature;

性相近，習相遠；苟不教，性乃遷」，

people’s nature is the same but they acquire different habits; without proper education, their behavior will deviate from their innate nature.”

那把答案講出來人性是本善，

It gives the answer: humans have a pure, good innate nature,

但是不受到好的教育就容易長養習性，

but they develop bad habits easily if they do not receive a good education.

就不會去那邊哲學在那裏辯論性善性惡，辯半天，這一個標準就出來了。

In this way, philosophers will not keep debating about whether people are good or bad by nature because the standard has been laid down here.

「教之道，貴以專」，

The classic also states, “The essential method of education is focused learning.”

你看現在一學四樣、五樣，學得好嗎？

But students now learn four to five subjects simultaneously. Can they learn them well?

現在人就是不聽經典、不聽聖賢，都聽誰？

People today refuse to accept the teachings in the classics and that of the saints and sages.

Who do they listen to?

所以現在這個時代聽騙不聽勸，認假不認真。真的，我頗有所感。

People in this age listen to lies instead of advice and approve speciousness but not the truth.

比方說，現在一個家長來跟我們討論如何把他的孩子教好。

Indeed, I have a deep feeling of this. Let us say a parent comes to discuss with us how to educate his child well.

當他把情況講完，我一定會告訴他，

After he has finished explaining the situation, I will surely tell him,

「冰凍三尺，非一日之寒」。

“Three feet of ice is not formed by one day’s chill.”

你的孩子必須要你用耐心、用愛心跟老師一起合作，

You must use patience and love with your child and cooperate with the teacher.

要差不多半年至一年就慢慢可以循規蹈矩。

After about half a year to a year, your child will gradually be able to observe due decorum.”

家長往往聽到半年、一年，眉頭都怎麼樣？這麼久！

Oftentimes, a parent hears “six months to a year,” he will furrow his brow and say “Wow!

Such a long time.”

要走的時候說：蔡老師，謝謝你，有機會再來跟你請教。

Before he leaves, he would say, “Thank you, Teacher Tsai. I’ll come to seek your advice again when there is an opportunity.”

走了以後，從此就怎麼樣？沒再回來。

But he will never come back.

很有可能報紙上登「三天課程」，都滿貴的，

Very likely when he sees an ad in the paper that says,

「保證讓你教出一個天才」。

“Three-Day Course that Guarantees You to Produce a Genius,”

他馬上跑去報名參加，趨之若鶩。

he will make a beeline for the course even though the fee is rather expensive.

所以我們從這裏看到，真正把真理告訴他，他信不信？不信。

We can see from here that he does not believe in the truth he was told.

現在的人急功好利，

People now crave instant success and benefits;

都很想要趕快就把他一步登天，

they want their child to reach the pinnacle of success instantly.

剛好與學問背道而馳，欲速則不達。所以要會判斷才行。

It just so happens to run contrary to wisdom because haste makes waste. We must know how to judge wisely.

所以《三字經》講「為學者，必有初」

The *Three Character Classic* states, “A pupil must start his learning from the very basics.” ,

開始先讀什麼？「小學終，至四書」，

Which book should he start with? “After learning the foundational classics, he can then learn *The Four Books.*”

所以你可以拍拍胸脯，從哪一本讀？

So, you can be assured with confidence. Which book should he start with?

《小學》，現在最精譬的小學就是《弟子規》，依據《小學》的綱領編出來，

The most incisive foundational classic now is *Dizigui*, which was compiled according to the foundational classic guidelines.

那你就也不會擔心自己講錯話。

Then you will not have to worry about saying the wrong thing.

所以《小學》讀完，讀《孝經》，讀四書。

After learning this classic, he can learn *The Classic of Filial Piety* and *The Four Books*.

而且當孩子已經把《弟子規》紮根下去，

Moreover, when children have already firmly comprehended the learning and practice of *Dizigui*,

他再念《孝經》，念四書，味道一不一樣？

will their insights be the same when they study *The Classic of Filial Piety* and *The Four Books*?

不一樣。當你讀到「孝悌也者，其為仁之本與」，

No! When children read this sentence —Filial piety and fraternity are the root of benevolence—

孩子讀到「孝悌也者」，那個「孝」字跟「悌」字就不是一個字，

the words of “filial piety” and “fraternity” will no longer be just words for them.

是什麼？

What will they be?

他會舉手，老師，這個孝是不是就是指「入則孝」？

The student would raise his hand and say, “Teacher, is this ‘filial piety’ referring to ‘Being Filial to Parents at Home’?”

他的孝不是空的。他的孝是跟生活結合，

For him “filial piety” is not “empty” but is integrated into his life.

他知道學問一定要解行相應，

He knows that his understanding must be consistent with practice when pursuing wisdom,一定要力行加學文。

and that practice must accompany with studying.

這個態度一正確，方向就不偏頗。

Once this attitude is correct, his direction will not stray.

所以「見未真，勿輕言」，

So “When I am unsure of what I am seeing, I will not rashly speak of it.”

而我們要見地正確，必然要從經典去了解，

For us to have the right view, we must gain understanding from the classics,要從聖賢人的教誨去堆積我們的判斷力。

and accumulate our ability to judge from the saints’ and sages’ teachings.

Empty Promises are Forbidden

『事非宜，勿輕諾；苟輕諾，進退錯』。

Next, “I must not agree to do something inappropriate, if I do, I will put myself into a dilemma.”

「事非宜，勿輕諾」，

“I must not agree to do something inappropriate.”

那現在輕諾的現象多不多？

Are there many empty promises nowadays?

所以喜時，一個人很高興的時候，不可以隨便就答應要給人家什麼東西，

Therefore, when a person is elated, he must not casually agree to give things to people very likely he will lose his credibility when he fails to do so.

很有可能到時候沒做到就失信於人。

We often see this mistake made by adults:

所以大人很常犯的就是一高興，孩子馬上察言觀色跟你要東西。

as soon as parents are happy, children can quickly observe it from their speech and facial expression and then ask parents for things.

你馬上說：好！好！到時候就後悔。

At this time the parents will often say, "Okay, okay!" But they will regret it later.

你看我們大人在哪個時候特別容易答應小孩？考試考得好。

When do we adults easily agree to children? When they do well in their examination.

這個答案很好，很真實。

This answer is very good and absolutely true!

當考試考得好的時候都可以要東西。所以孩子讀書的目的在哪？

If children can ask for things whenever they do well in the examination, what is their purpose in studying?

這無形當中，當我們在承諾孩子給他東西，

Unknowingly, when we promise children we will give them things,

已經在長養他的虛榮心，已經在讓他的讀書目的偏頗。

we have already nurtured their desire for vanity and have led them astray from their purpose in studying.

所以現在小學考試考得好，可以怎麼樣？可以吃雪糕。

Nowadays, what can children get when they perform well in their primary school exam?

They can eat ice cream.

上了初中考得好，可以怎麼樣？買腳踏車。

What can they buy when they do well in their junior high school exam? They can buy a bicycle.

上了高中考得好，可以怎麼樣？

What about when they excel in their senior high school exam?

可以談判，還可以挑，你是要MP3，還是要什麼？

They can negotiate and choose what they want. "Do you want an MP3 player or something else?"

他所有的動力都在這些東西上。

All their motivation is on these material belongings.

所以為什麼會有很多的父母被孩子趕出家去，

Why are many parents forced from their home by their children?

因為他覺得他想要的東西你都應該滿足他。

Because the children think that parents should satisfy everything they want.

所以當這個要東西的風氣形成，孩子的欲望就一天一天在增長。

Therefore, when this trend of demanding things is formed, children's desires will grow day by day.

欲是深淵，

“Desires are like a bottomless abyss.”

孩子從小欲望就打開，回不回得來？

When a child's desire is unleashed, can it ever be reined in again?

由儉入奢易，由奢入儉難。

“It is easy for a frugal person to become extravagant, but it is difficult for an extravagant person to become frugal.”

所以孩子要東西要習慣了，當有一天你不給他，他會怎麼樣？

When children are so used to demanding things, what will happen if you stop giving in to them one day?

我們也聽到很多孩子初中就動手打媽媽，不給錢就打。

We have also heard of many junior high school children beating their mother when she refused to give them money.

到那時候為人父母叫天天不應，叫地地不靈。

At this time, being parents, no one will come to your rescue.

所以這個輕諾當中就是太溺愛。

So, light promises are given out of excessive doting.

有一個刑事案件，是一個年輕人小時候父親常給他很多錢，

There was a criminal case involving a youth whose father often gave him a lot of money when he was a child.

所以他花錢花習慣。

Consequently, he became accustomed to spending money.

後來年輕一個月都要花幾萬塊，一、二萬人民幣，花得很兇。

Later, he spent ten to twenty thousand yuan a month, which was very lavish.

他父親有一天受不了，他說：不給你錢了。

One day, his father could no longer bear it and said, “I can't give you money anymore.”

還把他安排去當兵，當了兩年。

He even arranged his son to serve in the army for two years.

兩年回來，習慣有沒有改？很難，

Did he change his habit when he returned two years later? Very difficult!

確實那種愛慕虛榮、奢侈的習慣一染成，他只要進入那種情境，他就忍不住要打腫臉充胖子。

Indeed, already infected by vanity and extravagance, when the occasion arose he could not resist pretending to be rich.

所以後來當完兵也沒有什麼改變，依然如故。

After becoming a soldier, he did not change; old habits die hard.

他父親跟他劃清界限：我不再拿錢給你。

His father drew a line with him and said, “I will stop giving you money!”

結果這個孩子雇了殺手殺他父母。

As a result, this child hired an assassin to murder his parents.

在他們家門口對那個雇來的殺手說，

At the entrance to their home he said to the assassin,

等一下有哪一個人長多高走出來，反正就把那個路線講得一清二楚。

“In a moment, a man who is this tall will come out...” he clearly described the route that the man would take.

這個殺手就問他那個人是誰？他說是我爸爸。

The assassin asked, “Who is this person?” The son said, “My father.”

就這樣殺了他父親。然後因為錢的鑰匙在他母親手上，也把他母親殺了。

And just like that his father was murdered. Since his mother had the key to the money, he murdered her as well.

所以殺父殺母現在已經不稀奇了，原因在哪？

Therefore, killing parents is no longer rare now. What is its cause?

重利輕義。

Self-interest becomes a priority while righteousness is neglected.

這個「利」不斷提升就變成欲望，就變成主宰他行為的一個魔手，讓他想要跳出來都很困難。

This continuous greed had turned into desire, which dominated his behavior and made it very difficult for him to escape from it.

所以我們要謹慎，「事非宜，勿輕諾」。

Therefore, we must be careful: “I must not agree to do something inappropriate.”

不能一直長養孩子的奢華

We must not keep nurturing children’s extravagance.

有一個小孩他看這些飯菜他就不高興，發脾氣不吃。

There was a child who was unhappy with the food he was served and angrily refused to eat.

那一般的母親會怎麼樣？

What would the typical mother do?

過來三勸四勸，還有可能說，

She would come over and persuade her child several times, and she might even say,

你把它吃了，禮拜六我帶你去吃麥當勞。

“If you finish your meal, I will bring you to eat at McDonald’s on Saturday.”

這麼一講，孩子本來一口都不吃，馬上把它吞下去。

As a result, the child who initially refused to eat even a bite, quickly swallowed the food.

因為當我們沒有原則，孩子對我們的底細就很清楚。

Because when we do not have principles, children will clearly know our bottom line.

他就知道他只要用什麼情緒，大人就會就範、就會答應他。

The son knows that the adults will submit and agree to him as long as he uses certain emotions.

這種情況就麻煩。

This will cause trouble.

所以當這個小孩不吃飯，他父親也不出聲，繼續吃，

So, when this child refused to eat, his father did not say anything, just continued to eat.

太太就要過來勸兒子，先生很有教育敏感度，

His mother was about to persuade the son, but her husband, who was highly sensitive to education,

馬上用眼睛對他太太說：你退下，讓我來。

immediately made eye contact with her as if to say, “You back off, let me handle this.”

當然沒有說話，所以夫妻有默契。

Of course, both of them said nothing; the spouses had a tacit understanding.

教育孩子的原則一定要怎麼樣？要一致。

What is the principle of educating children? Spouses must act consistently.

不然孩子一定躲到那個沒有原則的父親或母親的背後。

Otherwise, the child will surely hide behind the one who has no principles.

所以等飯都吃完，他不肯吃，父親就說：來，把它收掉，統統收掉。

After the meal, their son still refused to eat; the father said, “Let’s take all the food away.”

兒子可能還在那裏搗著嘴生氣，反正讓他自己去生氣。

The son might still be having a tantrum but his parents just let him be.

結果當天晚上因為沒吃晚餐，所以半夜餓到睡不著覺，

As he did not have dinner, he felt so hungry at midnight that he could not fall asleep.

起來幹什麼？翻冰箱吃東西，吃冷的都有。

What did he do then? He got up to raid the fridge and ate the food cold.

下次還敢不敢威脅？敢不敢要求？不敢。

Would he dare to threaten and make requests next time? No!

所以我們從之前幾天課程，有沒有深刻體會到教育慎於始，特別重要。

From the previous few lectures, have we deeply understood that making a cautious start in education is particularly important?

不只小孩重要，所有大人的相處，

Not only is it important for children, but also for all adult interactions.

你也是要讓他第一次就了解到公私的原則是什麼？

For instance, you must let employees understand the company’s principles in the very beginning.

所以「教婦初來，教兒嬰孩」，

Likewise, we must “teach the daughter-in-law at her first arrival, and start to teach children from the time they are infants.”

是同樣的道理。媳婦剛來的時候，總不能到處撒野，

When the daughter-in-law just enters her in-law’s house,

也要了解到家裏的整個情況，大家才會做好配合。

she must not behave in a spoiled manner but learn the family traditions so that everyone can cooperate well.

「勿輕諾」一來是因為溺愛，二來是沒有原則。

So, making promises readily usually comes from spoiling children and from not having principles.

父母給予的承諾都憑著好惡，想給就給。可能答應了以後，情緒又變了，又不給他。

When parents make promises based on how they feel—they decide not to follow through on their promises when their mood changes—

小孩對你就沒有信任，

their child will lose trust in them.

比方說，你在那裏打麻將，然後就跟孩子說：好，你不吵，給你買什麼。

Let us say while you are playing mahjong, you say to your child, “Okay, pipe down, I’ll buy something for you.”

所以以後他要東西都在什麼時候？

When will he ask for things in the future?

在打麻將的時候，或者你在忙的時候，他都知道這個時候要東西鐵定要得到，

When you are playing mahjong or when you are busy, he knows he will be able to get whatever he asks for.

那就很麻煩。

This is troublesome!

所以父母也要勿輕諾。

Therefore, parents must “not make promises readily.”

父母要勿輕諾，進一步也要教導孩子勿輕諾。

They must also further teach their children to do likewise.

有一個小朋友，他剛好送同學一枝鉛筆，

There was a little child who gave his classmate a pencil.

那同學很高興，拿了以後就把它削一削，就開始寫。

Being very happy, his classmate sharpened the pencil and started to write with it.

隔天，他來的時候，就問他送給他筆的小朋友說：你今天跟不跟我玩？

The next day, this child asked the classmate who had received the pencil, “Will you play with me today?”

那小朋友也很單純：我今天不跟你玩。

His classmate who was very simple-minded said, “I won’t play with you today.”

那你把那個筆還給我。

“Then give me the pencil back.”

小孩子都很單純，他就把那枝筆還給他。

Children are very pure; his classmate then returned the pencil to him.

他說：我要那枝沒削過的，

But he said, “I want the unsharpened one.”

那小朋友又拿一枝沒削過的。

So his classmate took an unsharpened pencil and gave it to him.

他說：不是這一枝，就要我本來給你的那一枝。

He said, “Not this pencil, I want the one I gave you.”

老師看到了就趕快過來機會教育。

When the teacher saw this, he quickly went over and seized the opportunity to teach the child.
就告訴他「凡出言，信為先」，

The teacher said to him, “When I speak, credibility is foremost.”

你已經給別人了，那個東西就已經不是你的，

Since you’ve already given the pencil to him, it doesn’t belong to you anymore.

你沒有資格再給人家拿回來。

You have no right to take it back from him.

假如你要在送他以前，你就要衡量，你送出去你願不願意？

Before giving things to your friend, you have to first weigh whether you’re really willing to give it away.

或者你今天要給人家東西，要答應別人的時候，要先衡量到你的能力能不能做得到？

Or, say you want to give something away today, before you make a promise to the other person, you must think whether you have the ability to fulfill it or not.

假如你能力不夠又答應別人，到時候一定會失信。

If you do not have the ability yet you make a promise to others, you will lose their trust in the end.

而且在答應別人的時候，除了衡量能力，還要再考慮到你答應同學有沒有符合校規？

Other than measuring your own ability, you must also consider if your promise to your classmate conforms with school policy.

可能學校規定不能這麼做，你還答應同學，這樣是不對的。

Perhaps the school rules prohibit such things, but you still promise your classmate; this is not right.

所以要符合校規，符合國家的法律，要從這些去思考。

Thus, you must consider from the aspects of abiding by the school rules and country laws.

都是正確的行為了，那我們又有能力做到，才可以答應同學。

Only when our behavior is proper and we are able to keep our word, can we then promise our classmates.”

所以「勿輕諾」的態度也是要指導學生。

So this attitude of “not making promises lightly” also requires us to guide students.

好！我們這節課先講到這邊，謝謝大家。

That is all for this class. Thank you all.