

The Analects translated by Arthur Waley

Book 1

1. The Master said, To learn and at due times to repeat what one has learnt, is that not after all a pleasure? That friends should come to one from afar, is this not after all delightful? To remain unsoured even though one's merits are unrecognized by others, is that not after all what is expected of a gentleman?

16. The Master said, (the good man) does not grieve that other people do not recognize his merits. His only anxiety is lest he should fail to recognize theirs.

Book 2

4. The Master said, At fifteen I set my heart upon learning. At thirty, I had planted my feet firm upon the ground. At forty, I no longer suffered from perplexities. At fifty, I knew what were the biddings of heaven. At sixty, I heard them with docile ear. At seventy, I could follow the dictates of my own heart; for what I desire no longer overstepped the boundaries of right.

6. Meng Wu-Po asked about the treatment of parents. The Master said, Behave in such a way that your father and mother have no anxiety about you, except concerning your health.

12. The master said, A gentleman is not an implement.

13. Tzu-kung asked about the true gentleman. The master said, he does not preach what he practices till he has practiced what he preaches.

14. The master said, a gentleman can see a question from all sides without bias. The small man is biased and can see a question from one side.

15. The Master said, 'he who learns but does not think, is lost.' he who thinks but does not learn is in great danger.

17. The Master said, Yu, shall I teach you what knowledge is? When you know a thing, to recognize that you know it, and when you do not know a thing, to recognize that you do not know it. That is knowledge.

21. Someone, when talking to Master K'ung, said, How is it that you are not in the public service? The Master said, The Book says: 'Be filial, only be filial and friendly towards your brothers, and you will be contributing to government.' There are other sorts of service quite different from what you mean by 'service.'

Book 3

Book 4

9. The Master said, A Knight whose heart is set upon the Way, but who is ashamed of wearing shabby clothes and eating coarse food, is not worth calling into counsel.

14. The Master said, He does not mind not being in office; all he minds about is whether he has qualities that entitle him to office. He does not mind failing to get recognition; he is too busy doing the things that entitle him to recognition.

25. The Master said, Moral force never dwells in solitude; it will always bring neighbors.

Book 5

9. Tsai Yu used to sleep during the day. The Master said, Rotten wood cannot be carved, not a wall of dried dung be trowelled. What use is there is my scolding him any more?

10. The Master said, Ch'eng! He is at the mercy of his desires. How can *he* be called steadfast (= impervious to outside influences, intimidations, etc.)?

14. Tzu-kung asked saying, Why was K'ung Wen Tzu called Wen (The Cultured)? The Master said, Because he was diligent and so fond of learning that he was not ashamed to pick up knowledge even from his inferiors.

Book 6

3. There is a saying, A gentleman helps out the necessitous; he does not make the rich richer still.

17. The Master said, Man's very life is honesty, in that without it he will be lucky indeed if he escapes with his life.

18. The Master said, To prefer it is better than only to know it. To delight in it is better than merely to prefer it.

19. The Master said, To men who have risen at all above the middling sort, one may talk of things higher yet. But to men who are at all below the middling sort it is useless to talk of things that are above them.

Book 7

8. The Master said, Only one who bursts with eagerness do I instruct; only one who bubbles with excitement, do I enlighten. If I hold up one corner and a man cannot come back to me with the other three, I do not continue the lesson.

10. The Master said, The man who was ready to 'beard a tiger or rush a river' without

caring whether he lived or died – that sort of man I should not take. I should certainly take someone who approached difficulties with due caution and who preferred to succeed by strategy.

Book 8

Book 9

7. The Master said, Do I regard myself as a possessor of wisdom? Far from it. But if even a simple peasant comes in all sincerity and asks me a question, I am ready to thrash the matter out, with all its pros and cons, to the very end.

27. The Master said, Only when the year grows cold do we see that the pine and cypress are the last to fade.

Book 10

Book 11

3. The Master said, Hui was not any help to me; he accepted everything I said.

11. The Master said, Till you know about the living, how are you to know about the dead?

Book 12

Book 13

9. Jan Ch'iu said, When one has enriched them, what next should be done for them? The Master said, Instruct them.

23. The Master said, The true gentleman is conciliatory but not accomodating. Common people are accomodating but not conciliatory.

24. Tzu-kung asked, saying, What would you feel about a man who was loved by all his fellow-villagers? The Master said, That is not enough. What would you feel about a man who was hated by all his fellow villagers? The master said, That is not enough. Best of all would be that the good people in his village loved him and the bad hated him.

Book 14

3. The Master said, The knight of the Way who thinks only of sitting quietly at home is not worthy to be called a knight.

11. The Master said, To be poor and not resent it is far harder than to be rich, yet not preposterous.

25. The Master said, In old days men studied for the sake of self-improvement; nowadays men study in order to impress other people.

Book 15

7. The Master said, Not to talk to one who could be talked to, is to waste a man. To talk to those who cannot be talked to, is to waste one's words. 'He who is truly wise never wastes a man'; but on the other hand, he never wastes his words.

11. The Master said, He who will not worry about what is far off will soon find something worse than worry close at hand.

20. The Master said, 'The demands that a gentleman makes are upon himself; those that a small man makes are upon others.'

21. The Master said, a gentleman is proud, but not quarrelsome, allies himself with individuals, but not with parties.

22. The Master said, a gentleman does not: Accept men because of what they say; Nor reject sayings, because the speaker is what he is.

26. The Master said, Clever talk can confound the working of moral force, just as small impatiences can confound great projects.

29. The Master said, To have faults and to be making no effort to amend them is to have faults indeed!

30. The Master said, I once spent a whole day without food and a whole night without sleep, in order to meditate. It was no use. It is better to learn.

Book 16–20