

孝經



The Classic of Filial Respect

Content 目錄

- 01 重譯《孝經》序 Preface
- 04 開宗明義章第一
Chapter 1: Overall Principles at the Beginning
- 08 天子章第二 Chapter 2: The Son of Heaven
- 11 諸侯章第三 Chapter 3: The Feudal Lords
- 14 卿大夫章第四 Chapter 4: High Government Officials
- 17 士章第五 Chapter 5: Civil Servants
- 20 庶人章第六 Chapter 6: The Common People
- 22 三才章第七 Chapter 7: The Three Forces
- 26 孝治章第八
Chapter 8: Bringing Order into a Kingdom through Filial
Respect
- 29 聖治章第九 Chapter 9: The Government of the Sages
- 34 紀孝行章第十
Chapter 10: Fivefold Daily Practice of Filial Respect
- 37 五刑章第十一 Chapter 11: The Five Punishments
- 39 廣要道章第十二
Chapter 12: An Explanation of "The Essential Way"

- 42 廣至德章第十三
Chapter 13: An Explanation of "The Utmost Virtues"
- 45 廣揚名章第十四
Chapter 14: An Explanation of "Leaving a Good Name"
- 47 諫諍章第十五 Chapter 15: Remonstrating
- 51 感應章第十六 Chapter 16: Responses
- 54 事君章第十七 Chapter 17: Serving the Sovereign
- 56 喪親章第十八 Chapter 18: Mourning for Parents
- 60 創辦人——宣化上人簡傳
A Biographical Sketch of Venerable Master Hsuan Hua
- 65 法界佛教總會簡介
Brief Introduction of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association
- 69 育良小學、培德中學簡介
Instilling Goodness Elementary and Developing Virtue
Secondary Schools
- 76 孝經譯者簡介及感言一二
Translators and Feelings

開宗明義章第一

Chapter 1: Overall Principles at the Beginning



zhòng ní jū , zēng zǐ shì 。 zǐ yuē : 「 xiān
仲 尼 居 ， 曾 子 侍 。 子 曰 ： 「 先
wáng yǒu zhì dé yào dào , yǐ shùn tiān xià , mín
王 有 至 德 要 道 ， 以 順 天 下 ， 民
yòng hé mù , shàng xià wú yuàn 。 rǔ zhī zhī hū
用 和 睦 ， 上 下 無 怨 。 汝 知 之 乎
? 」 zēng zǐ bì xí yuē : 「 shēn bù mǐn ,
何 足 以 知 之 ！ 」 zǐ yuē : 「 fū xiào
， dé zhī běn yě , jiào zhī suǒ yóu shēng yě 。
復 坐 ！ 吾 語 汝 。 身 體 髮 膚 ， 受
zhī fù mǔ , bú gǎn huǐ shāng , xiào zhī shǐ yě
之 父 母 ， 不 敢 毀 傷 ， 孝 之 始 也
。 lì shēn xíng dào , yáng míng yú hòu shì , yǐ
顯 父 母 ， 孝 之 終 也 。 夫 孝 ， 始
yú shì qīn , zhōng yú shì jūn , zhōng yú lì shēn
於 事 親 ， 中 於 事 君 ， 終 於 立 身
。 《 dà yǎ 》 yún : 「 wú niàn ěr zǔ ,
聿 修 厥 德 。 」

Confucius was at leisure and his disciple Zeng Zi was attending upon him. Confucius said, "The ancient sage-rulers possessed the utmost virtues and essential Way, with which they ruled the nation, and as a result people lived harmoniously, and neither the nobility nor the commoners had any grievance. Do you know about it?"

Zeng Zi rose from his seat and said, "How could I, Shen*, who is dull-witted, know about it?"

Confucius continued, "Filial respect is the foundation of all virtue, and the source of all teachings. Be seated, and I will explain to you. Every part of our bodies, even the hair and skin, is derived from our parents; therefore, we should protect our bodies and keep them from injury; this is the fundamental act of filial respect. We establish ourselves by practicing the Way so that we can leave a good name for future generations. Thus, we honor and glorify our parents; this is the ultimate act of filial respect. To practice filial respect, we begin by serving our parents, followed by serving the sovereign, and finally by establishing ourselves well. As it is said in the *Major Odes* (of *The Book of Poetry*):

*How can you not be mindful of your ancestors
And not cultivate your virtues to safeguard theirs?"*



Notes:

*Shen is the name by which Zeng Shen refers to himself.

- ① 開宗明義：孝經首章篇名。說明全書宗旨義理。
。開，張也；宗，本也；明，顯也；義，理也。
- ② 先王：古代聖王。或稱已故的君王。
- ③ 曾子：（公元前505~公元前436年），名參，字子輿，春秋末魯國人。事親至孝。十六歲拜孔子為師，勤奮好學，頗得孔子真傳。
- ④ 立身：建立自身做人處世的基礎。
- ⑤ 聿：發語詞，用於句首或句中，無義。
- ⑥ 厥：他的、那個。同“其”。



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身體髮膚，受之父母，
不敢毀傷，孝之始也。

Every part of our bodies, even the hair and skin,
is derived from our parents; therefore,
we should protect our bodies and keep them from injury;
this is the fundamental act of filial respect.



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