



**Undergraduate assignment feedback form**  
**(to be completed by marker)**

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| <i>Module Code: SICH4009</i>                                                                                             | <i>Student number: 2015604</i> |
| <i>Module title: The Four <b>B</b>ooks</i>                                                                               |                                |
| <p><i>For completion by marker:</i><br/><i>Comments:</i></p>                                                             |                                |
| <i>Marker's signature:</i>                                                                                               | <i>Date:</i>                   |
| <p><i>Provisional mark:</i><br/><b>NB.</b> All marks are provisional until confirmed by the final examination board.</p> |                                |

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☒ I have not used AI in my assignment

I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research and creation of this assignment. I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated materials as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

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# The Way of Learning

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# 01 Scriptures

*Part 01* ➤

**“Mencius said, ‘Humaneness is the human mind. Rightness is the human path. To quit the path and not follow it, to abandon this mind and not know enough to seek it, is indeed lamentable. If a man has chickens and dogs that become lost, he knows enough to seek them. But when he has lost his mind, he does not know enough to seek it. The way of learning is none other than this: to seek for the lost mind.’ ”<sup>1</sup>**

孟子曰：「『仁，人心也。義，人路也。舍其路而弗由，放其心而不知求，哀哉！人有雞犬放，則知求之；有放心，而不知求。學問之道無他，求其放心而已矣。』」

<sup>1</sup> Irene Bloom, *MENCIUS*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.128.

“Mencius said, Humaneness is the human mind. Rightness is the human path.”<sup>2</sup>

孟子曰：「『仁，人心也。義，人路也。』」



Rightness





“To quit the path and not follow it, to abandon this mind and not know enough to seek it, is indeed lamentable.”<sup>3</sup>

「舍其路而弗由，放其心而不知求，哀哉！」

“If a man has chickens and dogs that become lost, he knows enough to seek them. But when he has lost his mind, he does not know enough to seek it.”<sup>4</sup>

「人有雞犬放，則知求之；有放心，而不知求。」



<sup>4</sup> Irene Bloom, *MENCIUS*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.128.

“The way of learning is none other than this :  
to seek for the lost mind.”<sup>5</sup>

「學問之道無他，求其放心而已矣。」



<sup>5</sup> Irene Bloom, *MENCIUS*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), p.128.



# 02 Explanation by Mr Xu Xingmin

*Part 02* ➤

Learning the Dao



Working in Politics



Helping people learn about Saint's Teaching

The Objective of learning:  
Become a saint



Whatever what major we are learning for, we need to seek for our mind. When we are learning the teaching of saints, seek for our mind, we can have more good achievement on our major.

「你學法律也好、學醫師也好，學美術、學文學，無論哪種學問，你要想從淺處講，要學一個健全的人格，必須像孟子所講：求其放心。我們有了這個學問、根本教育這個心，放心收回來，我們遇見世間那些學術，我們可以超越、可以突破。可以有更好的發明。」<sup>6</sup>



6 Xu Xingmin 徐醒民, *Mengzi yandu jiangji* 孟子研讀講記 (zhanghua: Xueming jiangxitang, 2014), 7 vols, p.91-92. (Translation is my own, Generalisation of the original text, with modifications.)



## 03 Ancient annotations



Humaneness is the human mind. Rightness is the human path.

仁，人心也。義，人路也。

The humaneness is the virtue of mind, Like Chengzi said, “our mind like a cereal seed, humaneness is born from it.

「仁者心之德，程子所謂『心如穀種，仁則其生之性』是也。」<sup>7</sup>

Rightness is the only way we should follow, we can not leave it for a moment.

「義者行事之宜，謂之人路，則可以見其為出入往來必由之道，而不可須臾舍矣。」<sup>8</sup>



<sup>7,8</sup> Zhu Xi 朱熹, *Sishu zhangju jizhu* 四書章句集注 (Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 2016), p. 340. (Translation is my own, Generalisation of the original text, with modifications)

To quit the path and not follow it, to abandon this mind and not know enough to seek it, is indeed lamentable.

舍其路而弗由，放其心而不知求，哀哉！

哀, means lamentable. 「哀，閔也。」<sup>9</sup>

哀 𠂔 āi 閔也。从口，衣聲。  
烏開切。

<sup>9</sup> Xushen 許慎, *Shuowen jiezi jiaodingben* 說文解字校訂本 (Nanjing: Fenghuang Press, 2004), p.39.

If a man has chickens and dogs that become lost, he knows enough to seek them. But when he has lost his mind, he does not know enough to seek it.  
人有雞犬放，則知求之；有放心，而不知求。



Chengzi said: “ Mind is the most important, chicken and dog is least important. Is it to care about the least important and forget the most important? Because it is has not be thought about. ”

「程子曰：『心至重，雞犬至輕。雞犬放則知求之，心放而不知求。豈愛其至輕而忘其至重哉？弗思而已矣。』」<sup>10</sup>

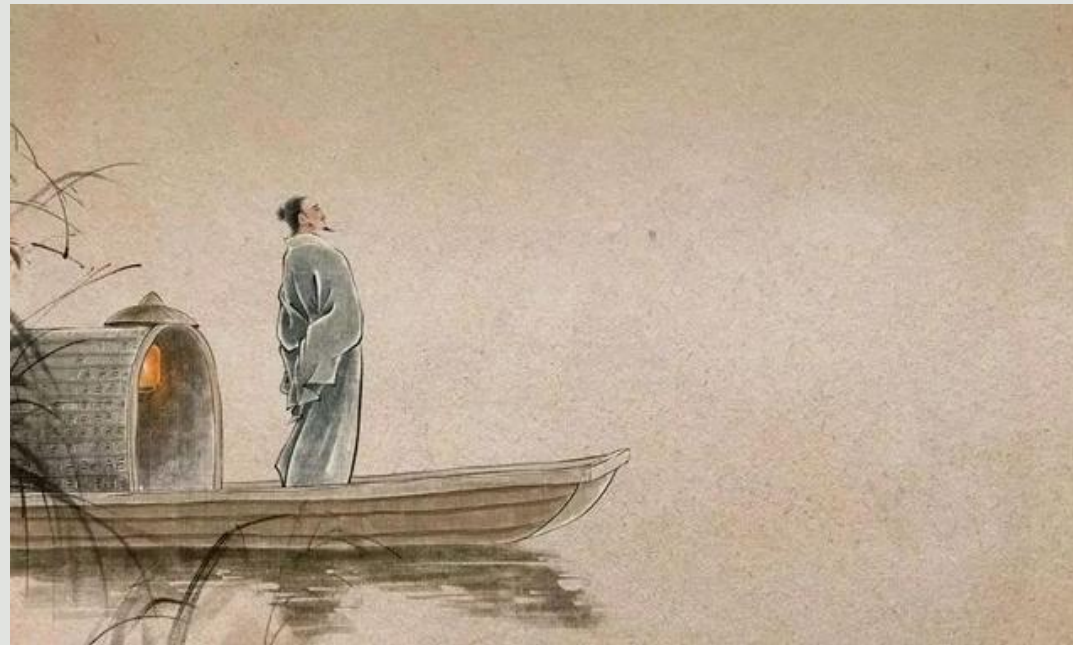
<sup>10</sup> Zhu Xi 朱熹, Sishu zhangju jizhu 四書章句集注 (Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 2016), p. 340. (Translation is my own, Generalisation of the original text, with modifications.)

The way of learning is none other than this: to seek for the lost mind.

學問之道無他，求其放心而已矣。

Mencius means, If we can seek for the lost mind, then we can learning.

「孟子之意，蓋曰能求放心，然後可以學問。」<sup>11</sup>



<sup>11</sup> Jiaoxun 焦循，Shen Wenzhuo 沈文倬 *Mengzi zhengyi* 孟子正義 (Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 2017), p.846. (Translation is my own, Generalisation of the original text, with modifications.)

In the past, a person who names Chenlie, he can't remember the classics. When he seek for the mind, he recived a really good results of learning.

昔陳烈先生苦無記性。一日，讀孟子“學問之道無他，求其放心而已矣。”忽悟曰：“我心不曾收得，如何記得書！”遂閉門靜坐，不讀書百餘日，以收放心，卻去讀書，遂一覽無遺。<sup>12</sup>



<sup>12</sup> Li Jingde 黎靖德 , Wang Xingxian 王星賢, *Zhuzi Yulei*, 朱子語類 (Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 2004) ,p.177.(Translation is my own, Generalisation of the original text, with modifications.)



# 04 Reflection



# Humaneness and Rightness:

- I should not have impatient to others.
- To be my self with rightness, looking for my own faults, not to seeking for wrong by others.
- Considering for others in everytime and everywhere

To seek for the lost mind:

- Focus on classics, don't care about the things which doesn't relate to classics.
- Save time, don't get weary with learning.
- The objective of learning: become a saint.

*Thank you for listening*

# Bibliography

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