



Selections from *Hu Siniang*

胡四娘

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Date: 12 January 2022

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1. The Introduction to the Writer



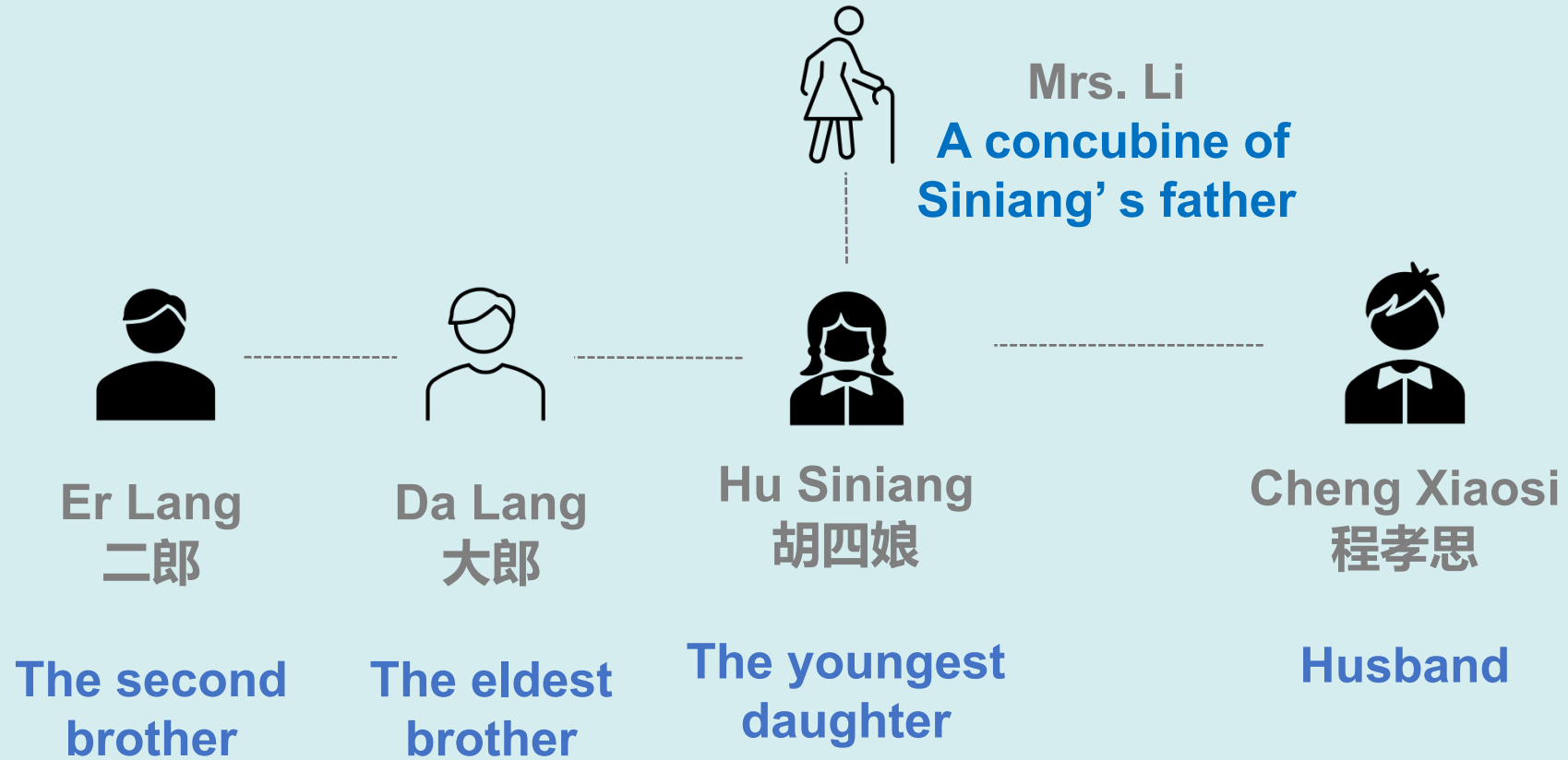
Hu Siniang 胡四娘 is from *Liaozhai Zhiyi* 聊齋志異

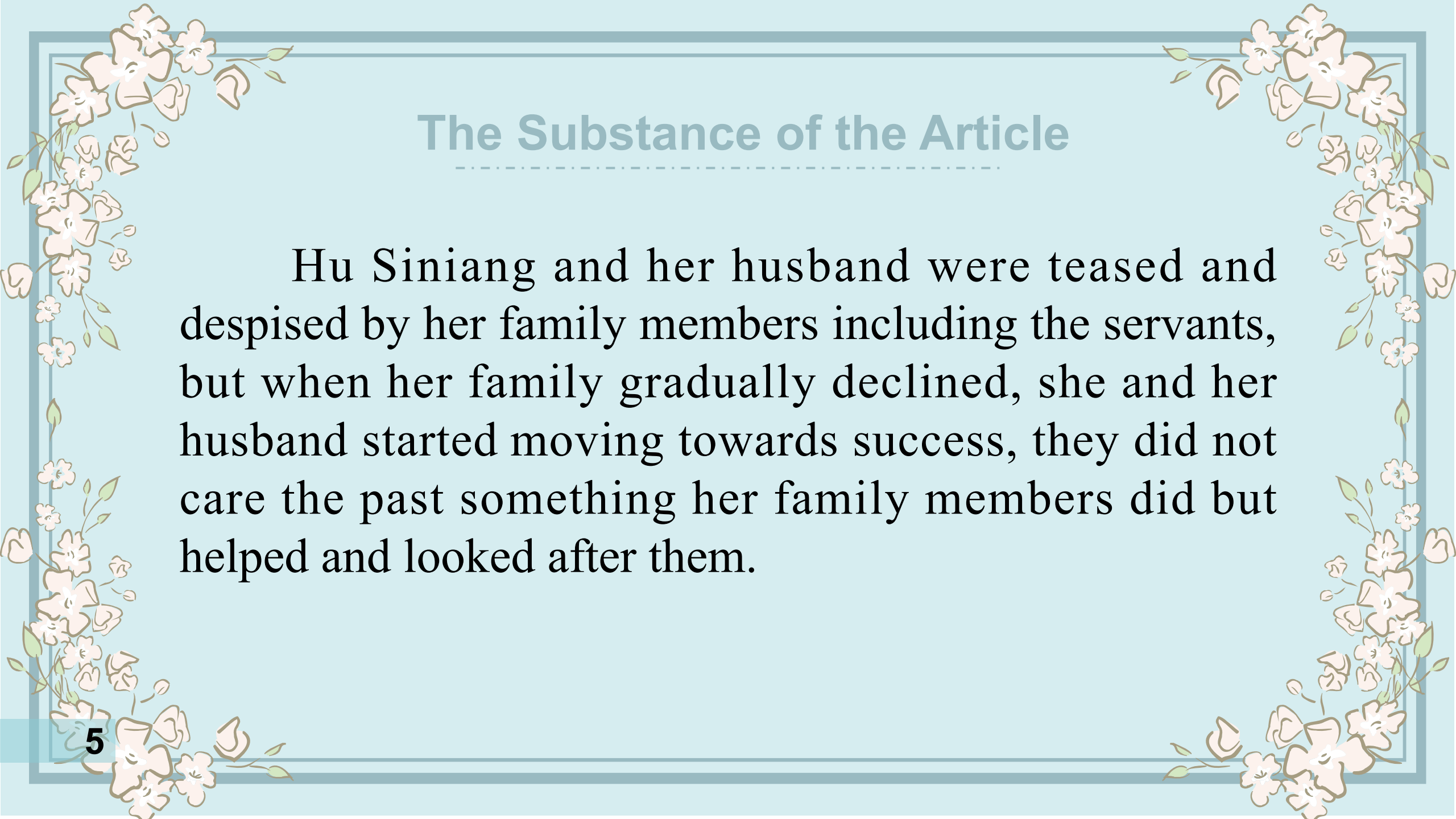
The author: Pu Songling 蒲松齡 in the Qing Dynasty

Sanjielu Bitan 三借廬筆談 said, 'Every morning Mr. Pu Songling would set up a tea booth at the side of road in order to chat to pedestrians to collect some anecdotes. After back home, those anecdotes would be written an article by him. Like that, he written more and more and then *Liaozhai Zhiyi* 聊齋志異 was composed.'

<https://tse1-mm.cn.bing.net/th/id/R-C.9670b5dfe3004408ae047590717065a0?rik=1Lnf9OTE3zqDHA&riu=http%3a%2f%2fchina-traducida.net%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2012%2f04%2fPu-Songling.jpg&ehk=pczRoluUcxmTMuyj%2bdq4Kx4cTJLDIYYqpp2vYd%2bwasQ%3d&risl=&pid=ImgRaw&r=0>

The Main Characters

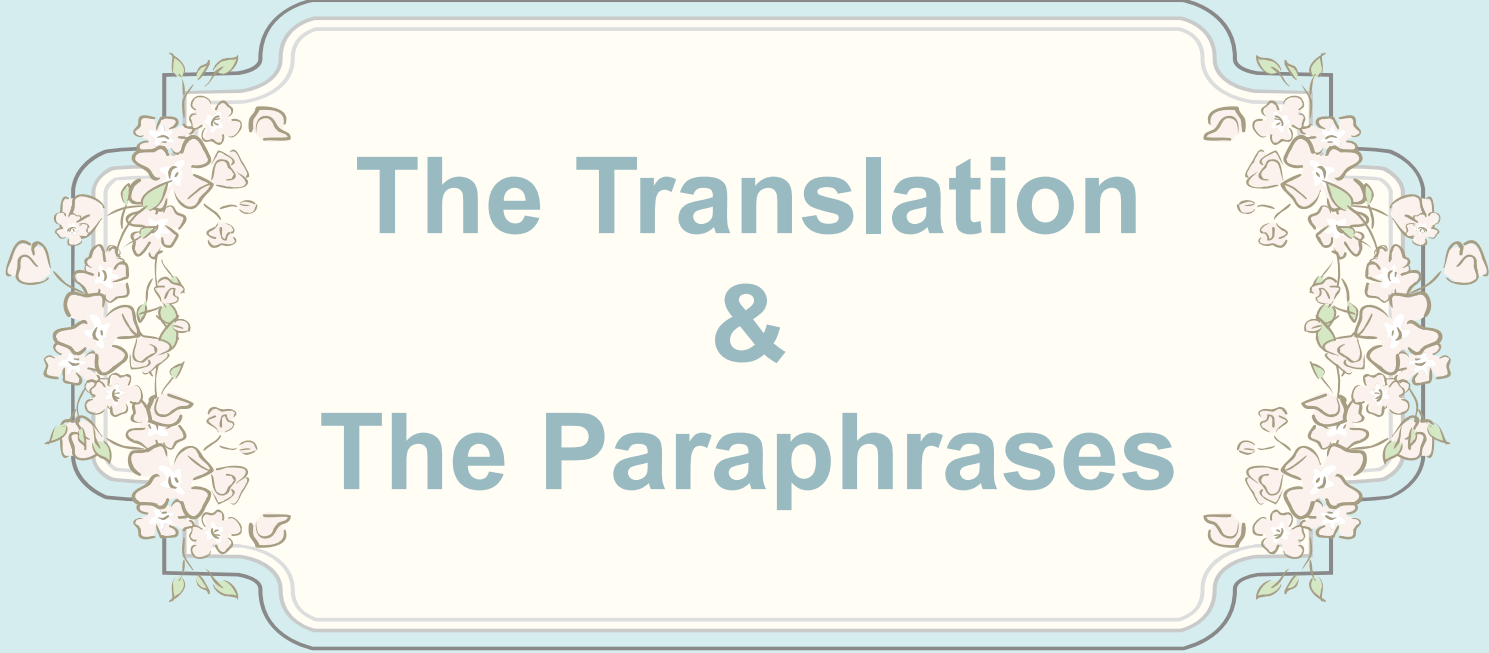




The Substance of the Article

Hu Siniang and her husband were teased and despised by her family members including the servants, but when her family gradually declined, she and her husband started moving towards success, they did not care the past something her family members did but helped and looked after them.

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A decorative border of pink and white flowers with green leaves, arranged in a symmetrical, vine-like pattern around the central text box.

The Translation & The Paraphrases

二郎適以人命被逮，直指巡方者^①，為程同譜^②，風規甚烈。

Siniang's second brother was arrested because he killed a person. The presiding judge of the case was a *Jinshi* 進士 on the same list as Cheng Xiaosi 程孝思, and his style of work was very serious.

①直指巡方者 *Zhizhi xunfangzhe*: an official dealing with political affairs

②同譜 *Tongpu*: they recieved their *Jinshi* 進士 titles together.

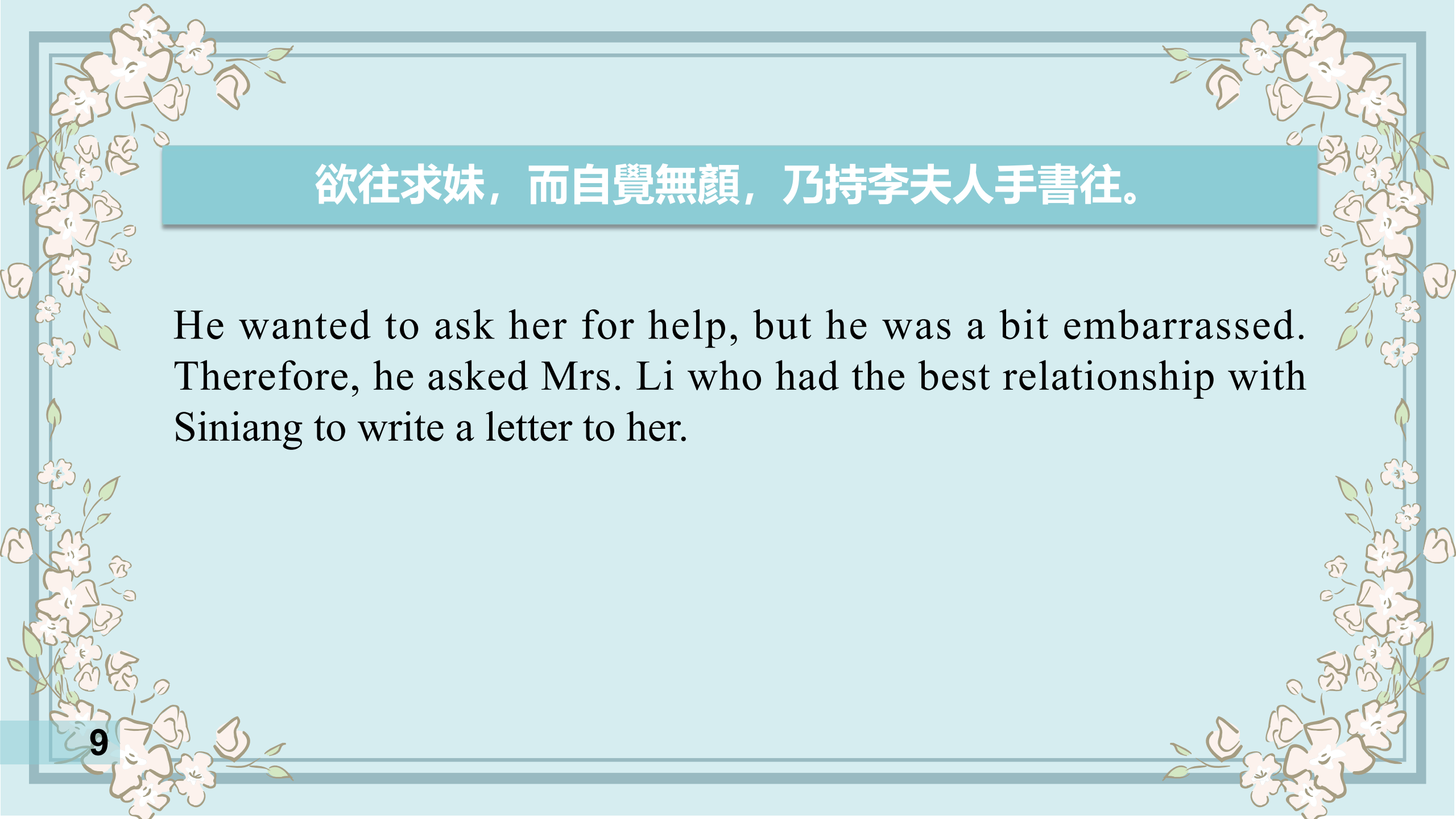
大郎浼^③婦翁王觀察^④函致之，殊無裁答，益^⑤懼。

Therefore, he asked his father-in-law, Wang Guancha 王觀察, to write a letter to the judge, but the judge did not any reply. This made the eldest brother more afraid.

③浼 *Mian*: ask...for help

④觀察 *Guancha*: an official position in the Qing dynasty

⑤益 *Yi*: more



欲往求妹，而自覺無顏，乃持李夫人手書往。

He wanted to ask her for help, but he was a bit embarrassed. Therefore, he asked Mrs. Li who had the best relationship with Siniang to write a letter to her.

至都，不敢遽^⑥進。覷^⑦程入朝，而後詣^⑧之。

When he arrived, he did not dare to enter, immediately. He stayed outside to peep at whether Cheng Xiaosi 程孝思 had gone to work or not.

⑥遽 *Ju*: immediately

⑦覷 *Xu*: peep at

⑧詣 *Yi*: visit

冀^⑨四娘念手足之義，而忘睚眦^⑩之嫌。閽人^⑪既通，即有舊媼^⑫出，導入廳事，具酒饌，亦頗草草。

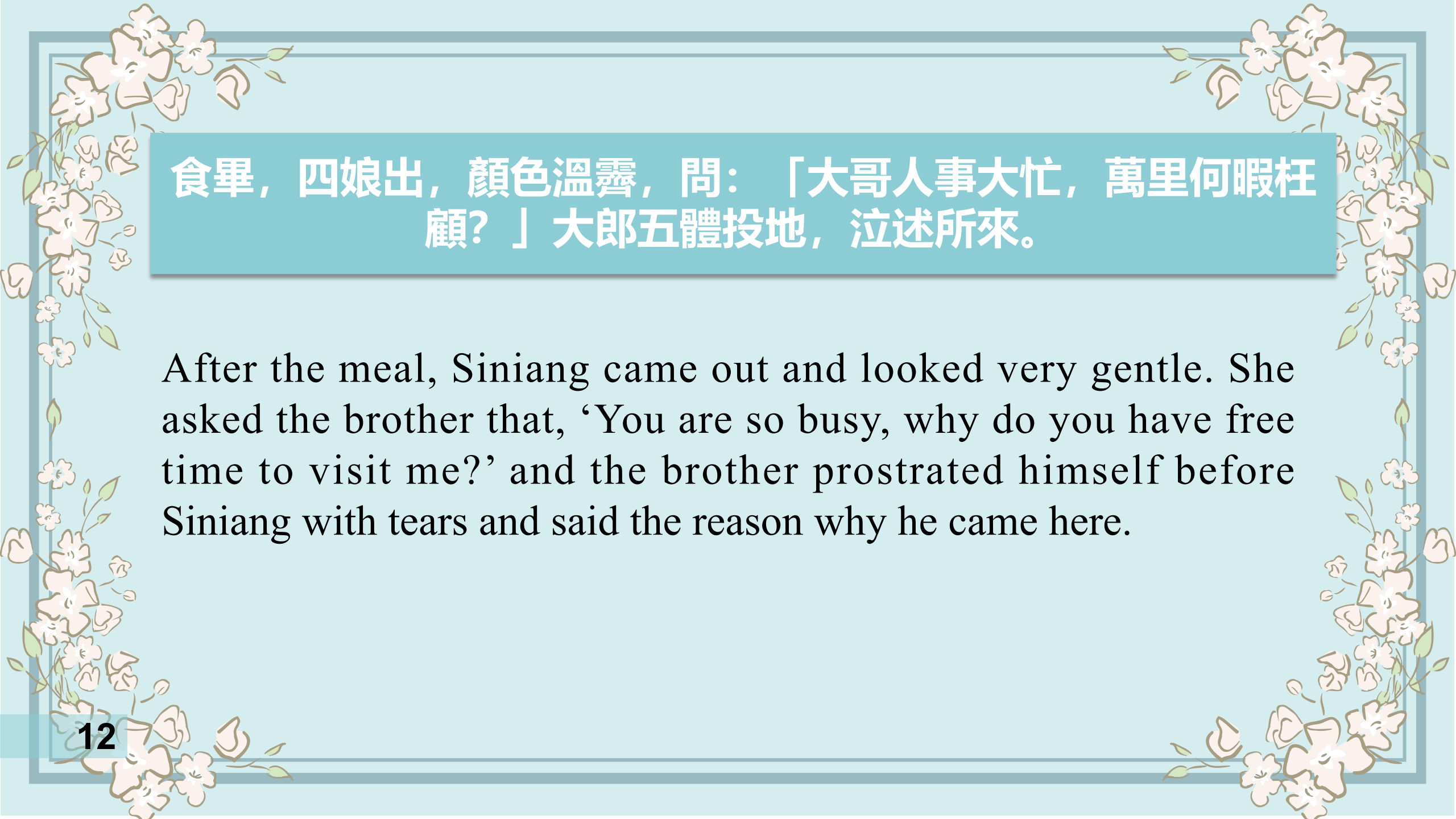
When he was hoping Siniang could let go of grudges in the past and consider siblings affection, an old maidservant came out and brought him to the hall after the gatekeeper notified. They prepared a simple meal with wine for the eldest brother.

⑨ 冀 *Ji*: hope

⑩ 睚眦 *Yazi*: an angry stare; a trifling grievance

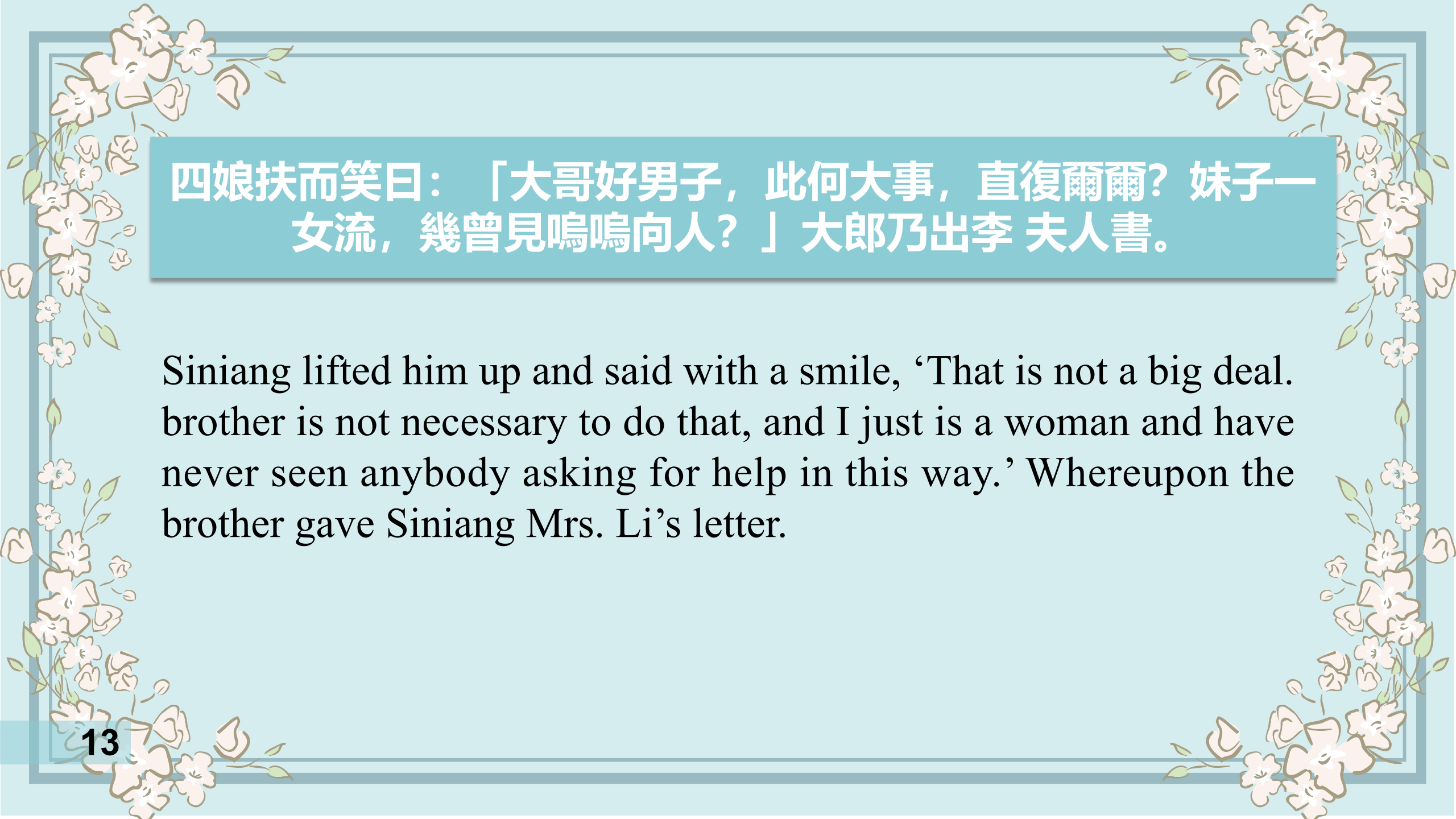
⑪ 閽人 *Hunren*: the gatekeeper

⑫ 媼 *Ao*: an old maidservant



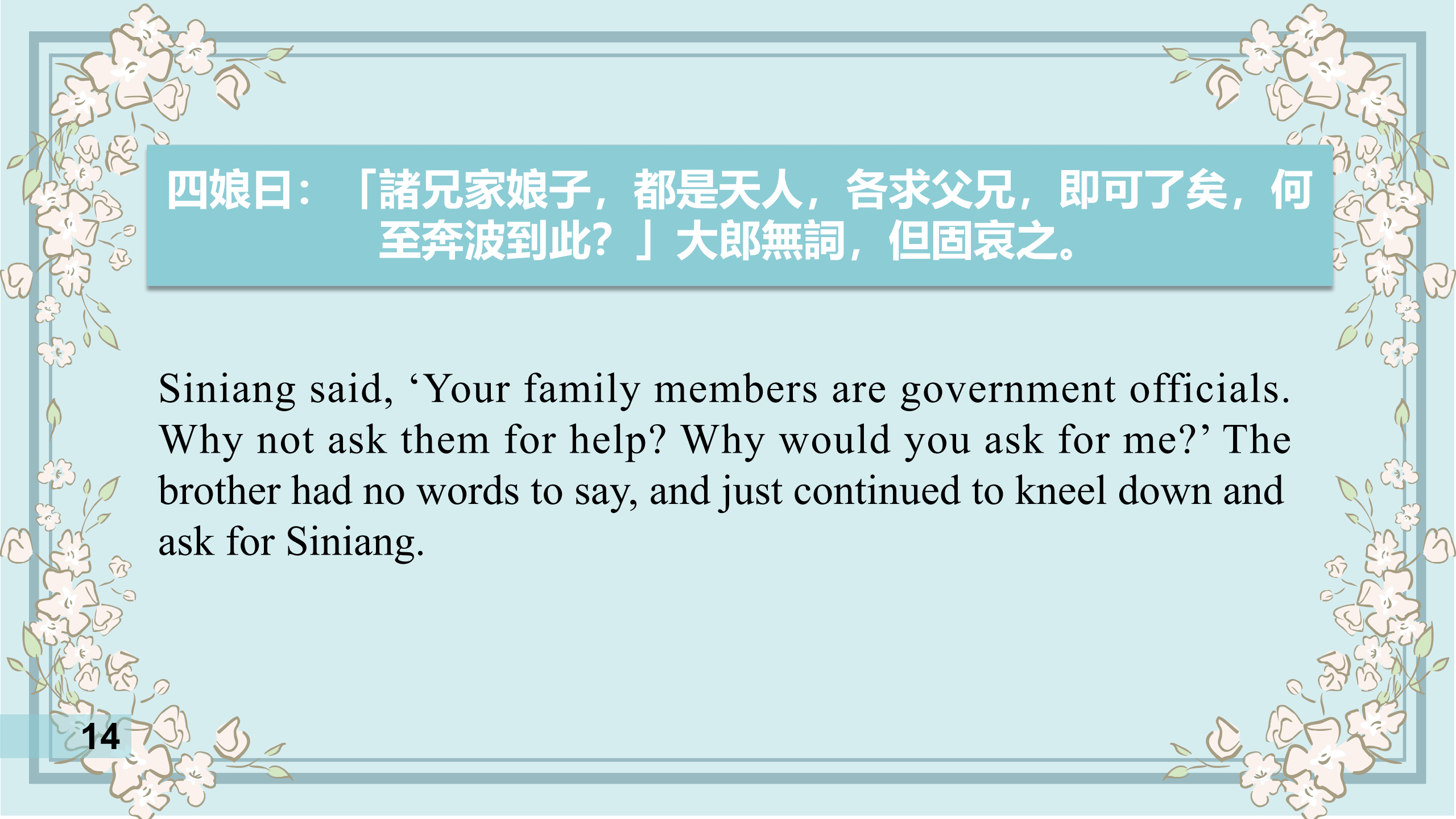
食畢，四娘出，顏色溫霽，問：「大哥人事大忙，萬里何暇枉顧？」大郎五體投地，泣述所來。

After the meal, Siniang came out and looked very gentle. She asked the brother that, ‘You are so busy, why do you have free time to visit me?’ and the brother prostrated himself before Siniang with tears and said the reason why he came here.



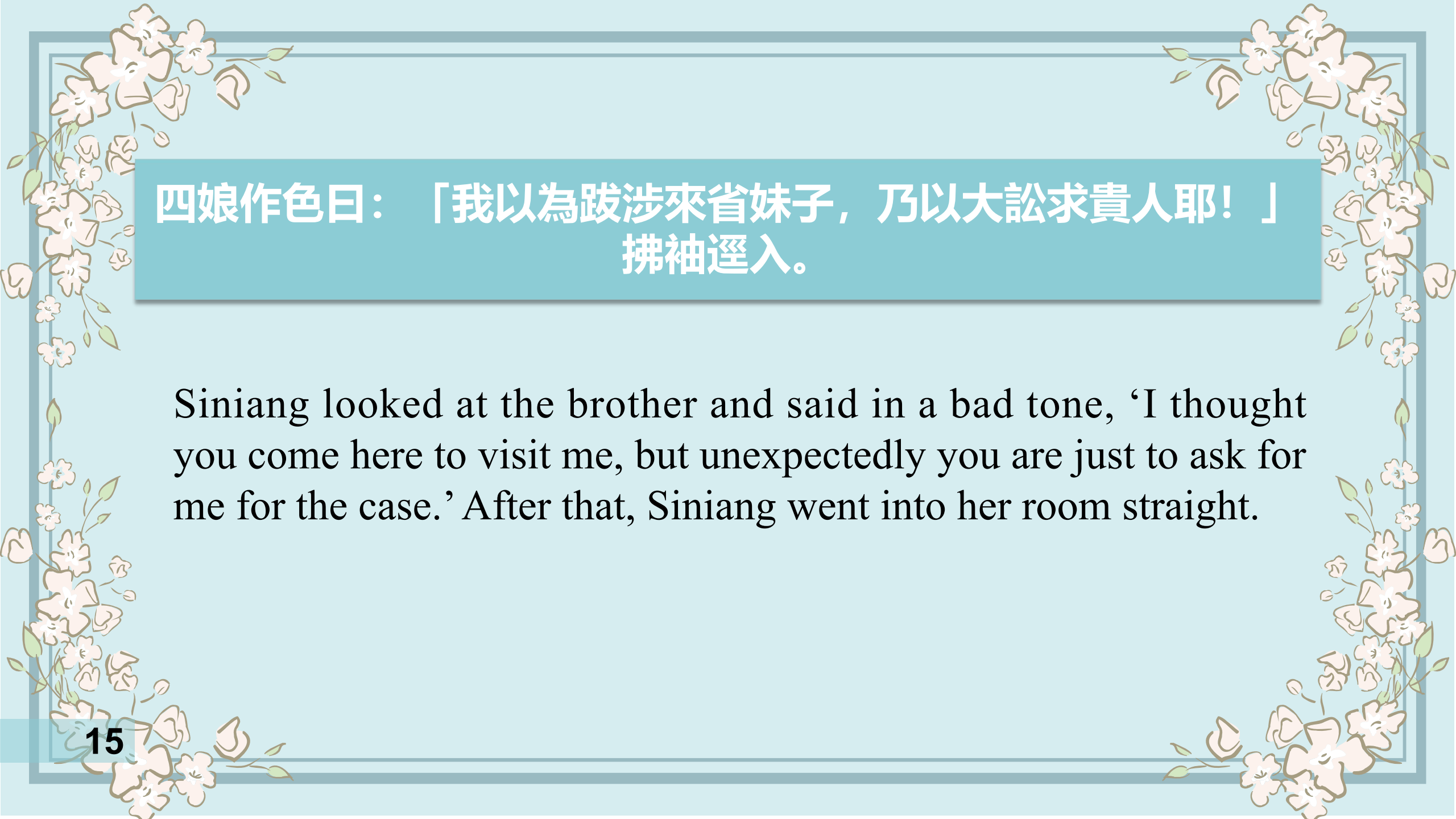
四娘扶而笑曰：「大哥好男子，此何大事，直復爾爾？妹子一女流，幾曾見嗚嗚向人？」大郎乃出李夫人書。

Siniang lifted him up and said with a smile, 'That is not a big deal. brother is not necessary to do that, and I just is a woman and have never seen anybody asking for help in this way.' Whereupon the brother gave Siniang Mrs. Li's letter.



四娘曰：「諸兄家娘子，都是天人，各求父兄，即可了矣，何至奔波到此？」大郎無詞，但固哀之。

Siniang said, ‘Your family members are government officials. Why not ask them for help? Why would you ask for me?’ The brother had no words to say, and just continued to kneel down and ask for Siniang.



四娘作色曰：「我以為跋涉來省妹子，乃以大訟求貴人耶！」
拂袖逕入。

Siniang looked at the brother and said in a bad tone, ‘I thought you come here to visit me, but unexpectedly you are just to ask for me for the case.’ After that, Siniang went into her room straight.

大郎慚憤而出。歸家詳述，大小無不詬詈^⑬；李夫人亦謂其忍。

The brother also was back home with an angry and guilty mood. After he arrived home, he told family members what happened in detail. All family members abused Siniang's actions. Even Mrs. Li who was best with Siniang also thought Siniang was merciless.

⑬詈 *Li*: abuse



逾數日，二郎釋放寧家^⑭，衆大喜，方笑四娘之徒取怨謗也。

A few days later, the second brother was released. Everyone was so happy, meanwhile they teased Siniang.

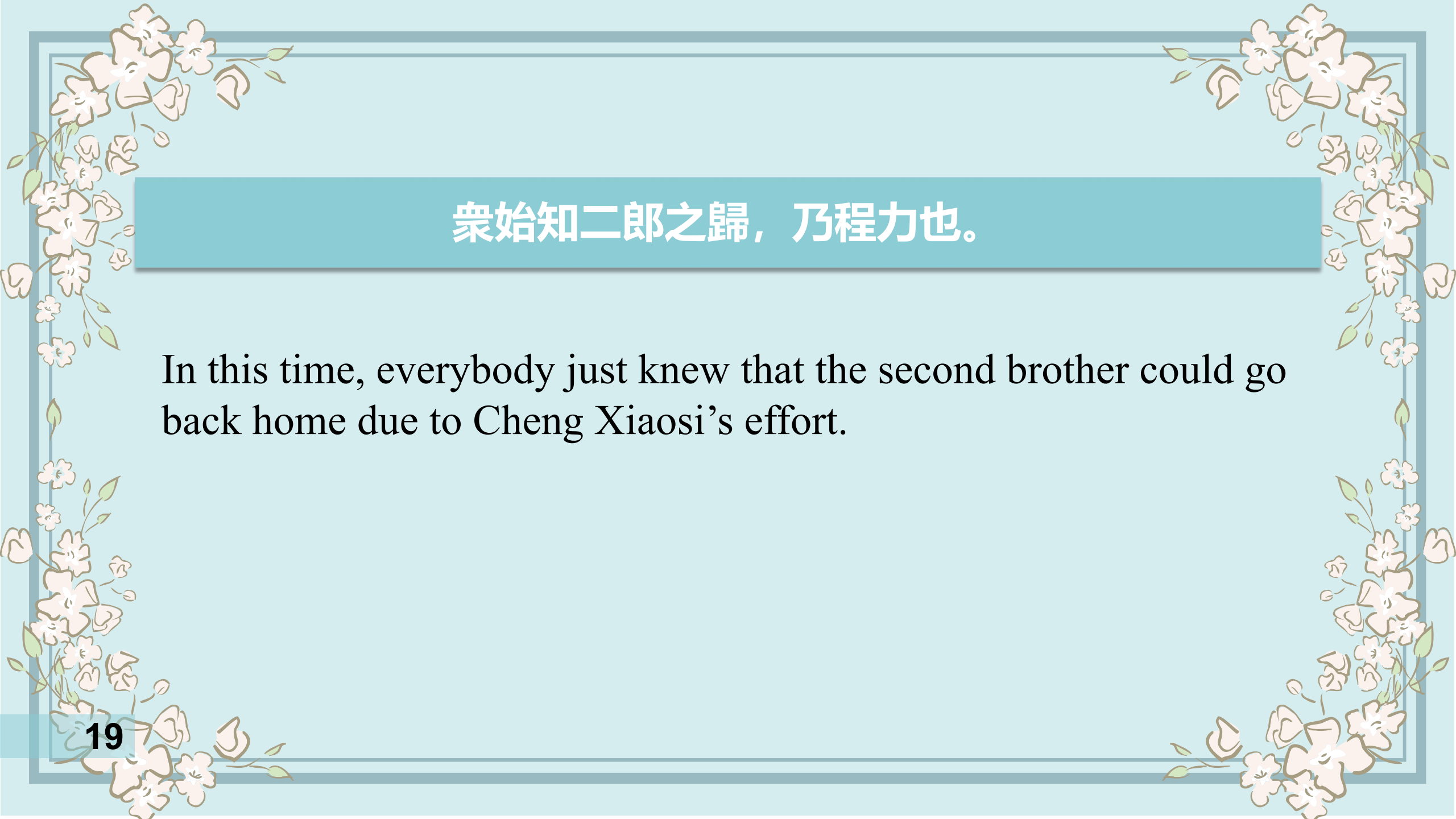
⑭ 寧家 *Ningjia*: going back home

俄而四娘遣价^⑮候李夫人。喚入，僕陳金幣，言：「夫人為二舅事，遣發甚急，未遑字覆。聊寄微儀^⑯，以代函信。」

Shortly afterwards, A servant, who was dispatched by Siniang, visited Mrs. Li and gave her some gold coins. The servant said, 'My master was occupied dealing with the second brother's case urgently, so she had no time to reply with letter for you by herself, and these gold coins just are reply for you.'

⑮ 价 *Jie*: a servant

⑯ 儀 *Yi*: gifts; in the article refers to gold coins



衆始知二郎之歸，乃程力也。

In this time, everybody just knew that the second brother could go back home due to Cheng Xiaosi's effort.

3



My Impression of the Article

- 四娘作色曰：「我以為跋涉來省妹子，乃以大訟 求貴人耶！」

Siniang said **in a bad tone**, ‘I thought you came here to visit me, but unexpectedly you were just to ask for me for the case.’
After that, Siniang went into her room straight.

- Why did Siniang do that?

‘The servant said, “My master was occupied dealing with the second brother’s case urgently, so she had no time to reply with letter for you by herself” .’

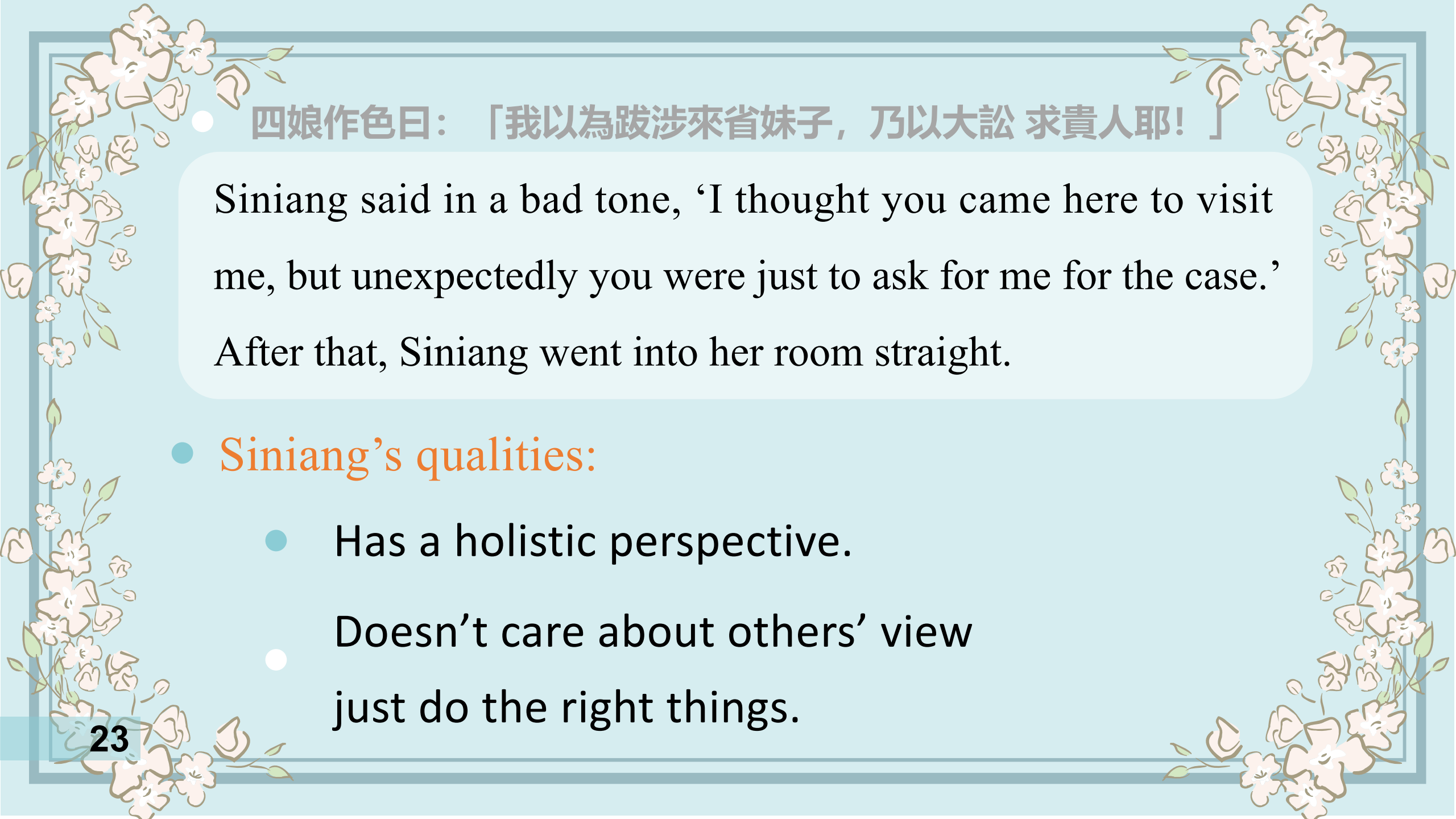
夫人為二舅事，遣發甚急，未遑字覆.’

- 四娘作色曰：「我以為跋涉來省妹子，乃以大訟 求貴人耶！」

Siniang said in a bad tone, 'I thought you came here to visit me, but unexpectedly you were just to ask for me for the case.'
After that, Siniang went into her room straight.

- Why did Siniang do that?

She wanted to deal with the case as quickly as possible, while her eldest brother had delayed her, so she had to do so.



- 四娘作色曰：「我以為跋涉來省妹子，乃以大訟 求貴人耶！」

Siniang said in a bad tone, ‘I thought you came here to visit me, but unexpectedly you were just to ask for me for the case.’
After that, Siniang went into her room straight.

- Siniang’s qualities:
 - Has a holistic perspective.
 - Doesn’t care about others’ view just do the right things.

Tolerance

Firstly

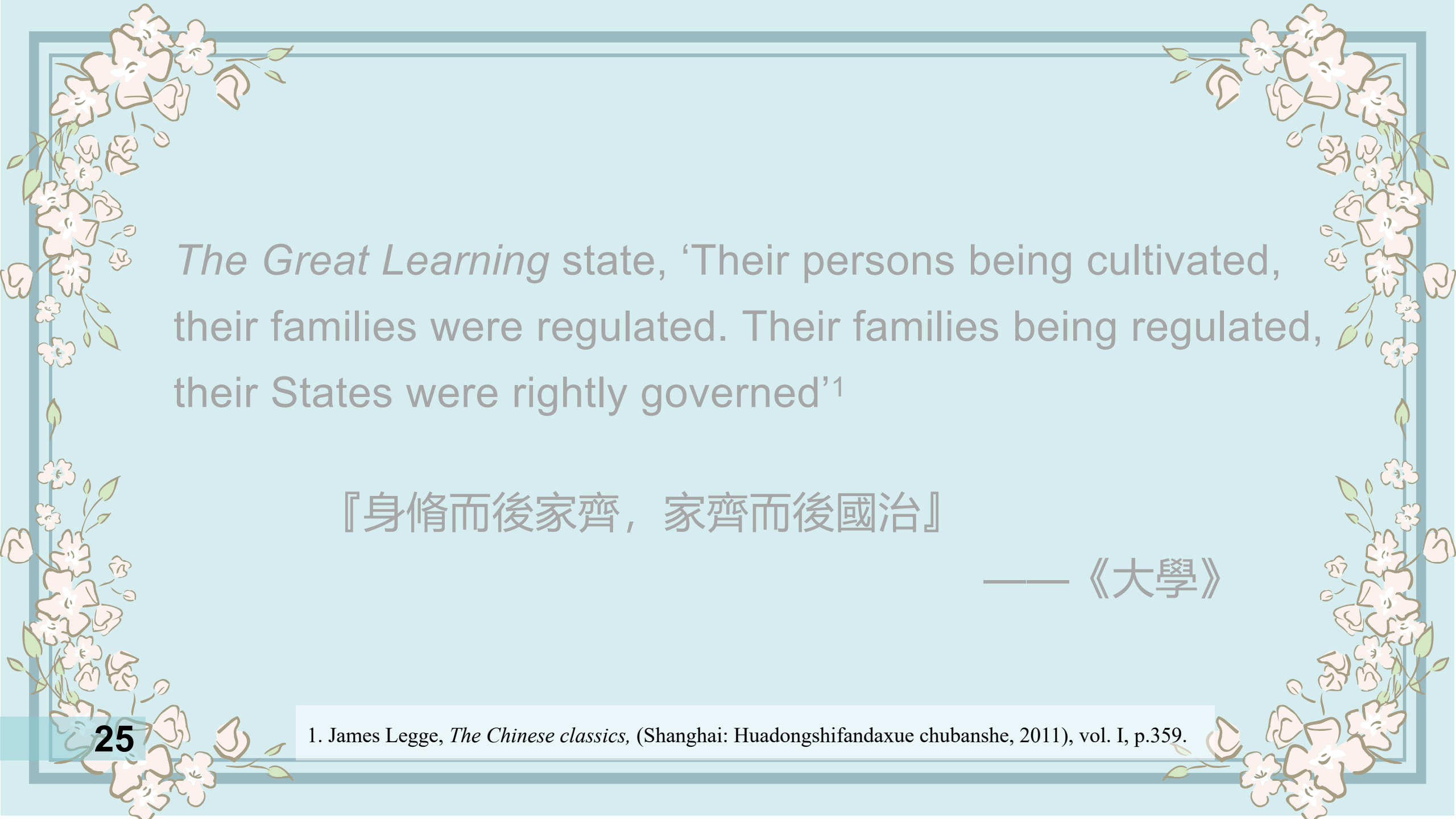
We should only put other's good and favours on our heart rather than badness.

Secondly

We should believe that everyone's nature is good.

Thirdly

We should let go of our own feelings.



The Great Learning state, 'Their persons being cultivated, their families were regulated. Their families being regulated, their States were rightly governed'¹

『身脩而後家齊，家齊而後國治』

——《大學》



President Xi said,
'A prosperous, strong nation, the
great national rejuvenation and the
happiness of the people are
embodied by the happiness of tens
of thousands of families and the
better life of hundreds of millions of
people.'²

in a conference to honor model families across the
nation in Beijing, capital of China, Dec. 12, 2016.

2. Zhang Tianrui, 張天瑞 Bianji 邊基, Chinese President stresses familial virtues (2016) < <http://en.people.cn/n3/2016/1213/c90000-9153950.html> > [accessed 9 January 2022].

<http://en.people.cn/NMediaFile/2016/1213/FOREIGN201612130829000486078336607.jpg>

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4. 許慎 [Xu Shen], 段玉裁 [Duan Yucai], 說文解字 [*Shuowen jiezi*] (Shanghai: Sshanghai guji chunbanshe, 1988.2)
5. 張天瑞 [Zhang Tianrui], 邊基 [Bian Ji], Chinese President stresses familial virtues (2016)
<<http://en.people.cn/n3/2016/1213/c90000-9153950.html>> [accessed 9 January 2022].

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**Thank you for
Listening**