



Undergraduate assignment feedback form
(to be completed by marker)

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<i>Module Code: SICH3012</i>	<i>Student number: 2503135</i>
<i>Module title: A Brief History of British Sinology</i>	
<i>For completion by marker:</i> <i>Comments:</i>	
<i>Marker's signature:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
<i>Provisional mark:</i> NB. All marks are provisional until confirmed by the final examination board.	

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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.

☐ I have used AI in my assignment

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Assessment Component 1: Portfolio of oral assessments in English

Good afternoon everyone, today we will look at a passage from the *Collectanea of Ethical Exemplar*, called ‘Indulgence Ruins a Child’s Life’.

This is the original text, it’s in Chinese. I’ll not read it, because we’re focusing on the translation, but as it’s from a collection of ethical exemplary stories, basically there should be something we can learn from it. And we’ll discuss that at the end.

The title was ‘Indulgence Ruins a Child’s Life’, from it we can have a clue about the theme of the story, what does it mainly talks about. Which is basically regarding someone spoiling their child, which ends up the child not so good.

Now let’s start.

Translation

It is said that once there was a beggar in his thirties with his seven-or-eight years old son, cooking in a common shelter. A common shelter here regards a kind of building in ancient China, I didn’t found any illustration of it so i just drew the little house myself, so it’s nothing serious. It’s built along the road for travelers to rest, and it’s public, so anyone can use it.

Then a stranger who just walked by asked the beggar in reproach: ‘You look healthy and strong, why don’t you go to work, what’s the reason for you doing this kind of thing?’ Not like women, Men have the right to be educated in the past, so theoretically they should be working. So, it’s unsurprising that a stranger would feel curious and maybe a little angry about his situation.

And the beggar replied: ‘It was my mother who brought me to this point.’ Now he’s blaming his mother, let’s see why.

He said: “I was born into wealth and when I was young, my grandfather wanted me to learn a skill so I can go to work, but my mother refuse to. Maybe because it’s tough to learn to work, his mom doesn’t want her beloved child to suffer from

hardships.

So She's making everything go as her child wished. She always makes her child satisfied, gives him food and drinks, whatever he wants. Because of this, the beggar continued: **'I know nothing even after my father and grandfather passed away.** Which in other words, he knows nothing when he grows up.

And what did he do instead: **I spent most of my time dealing with robbers and bandits and kept making trouble. I sold out all family property. My wife also left me and got remarried, only leaving this child.**

I want to work but I don't know anything about farming. That's the reason why I can only forage with my son now. 'work' is the word for 佣工 in Chinese, so here it refers to 'working for others'.

Is it not my mother who made me who I am today?'

As he finished talking, the person listening to his story sighed for him.

The end.

Now we've gone through the whole passage, the story was quite simple but there's a lot we can learn from it. I found 5 key points pretty useful from this story, especially when setting up our attitudes towards life.

Reflection

1. I believe the most obvious one is children can't be spoiled as this will lead to their self-destruction. The person who spoils child is not limited to 'mothers', as shown in the text, but all seniors to a child.

If I'm not wrong, I think even the princesses of the English royal families do accept strict education, not only about common subjects, also government and etiquette. Nobody's really doing everything for them because they're princesses, they're wealthy, but to make them a person with great morality and knowledge even more rigorously than common people.

Besides, the most heartbreaking thing is probably by spoiling your child, you not only destroyed them chronically, but also rewarded with blames, though of course

usually no one will appreciate someone who just destroyed their life, even if they're unintentional.

So, to be good for both seniors and the child, it's necessary to let children have the conscious that they also need to shoulder responsibilities. Then practically they'll become that kind of person in the future.

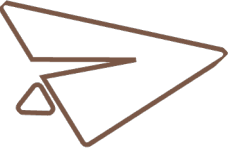
2. For this to achieve, seniors should set good examples for juniors to follow. In Chinese we say 上行下效 which basically means the same thing. Especially parents, because children's characters often reflect their upbringing. It's the same for all seniors actually, parents, elder brothers and sisters, teachers, rulers of countries, leader of a team or enterprise, only when they possess good morality and do good things will their inferiors possess same qualities. So, in this story, it will be to be a competent mother so the child is also responsible, virtuous, talented, and most importantly, her child can survive on his own.

This passage, it focuses more on the mother's neglect of her child's education, both moral and literary, so it's more about a negative example of raising a child, a good alert for those as parents, and grandparents, as I know many grandparents spoil children more than their parents did.

3. But we can also learn from the beggar. Which is that people need to be autonomous if nobody's helping. You can't just give up on yourself or think it's OK to keep degenerating as there will not always be someone around to make everything organized for you. As we can see at the end of the passage, though the stranger, the person that talks to the beggar, knows how he came to this point, he can't do anything, he can only sigh. In Chinese we say 自救者天救, which means others will help you only when you are helping yourself, so it's equally important to have the urge to keep going yourself and supports from outside. Though the beggar said he's unable to do any work because he knows nothing, he can learn it now. It might be hard but there's still chances, but apparently, he didn't try.

4. He rather complains about his mother and here's the second thing: never blame something that's already been done, but to make sure you don't make the same mistake next time you face the same situation. The beggar blames his mother for not allowing him to learn anything, but he's doing just the same thing as his mother, he didn't notice he should do whatever he can to find opportunities for his son to learn so he won't experience the same life. And, maybe when his son grows up, he will also blame his father for not teaching him anything. So, it's very important to find out and correct a mistake, as this will basically change a person's life.
5. The last thing I want to say is the importance of learning. Especially parents, the reason the beggar squandered all family property is not only because of his mother spoiling him too much, but also that he doesn't want to read or learn himself, so he never learned about what's right or wrong. Parents shall have this consciousness for their children to learn. In Chinese we say 子孙虽愚，经书不可不读, it's from the familial precepts of *Zhuzi*, meaning that though our descendants are brainless, they must read classics, those are books of knowledge and experiences from ancestors, because other than parents' own example, the greatest source of knowledge is from books we read. Children learn to be virtuous, and, in the past, boys gained the ability to become officials by reading. If the beggar at least reads, he'll probably end up differently.

Overall, this is a really condensed story with a lot we can learn from it, and today I'll just stop here, hope you all have benefit from it. Any feedback is greatly appreciated, thank you for your time.



Indulgence Ruins a Child's Life (3)

Module code: SICH3012

Module tutor: Dr Katherine Ngo

Student: Yichun Wang

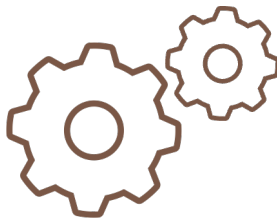
Student ID number: 2503135

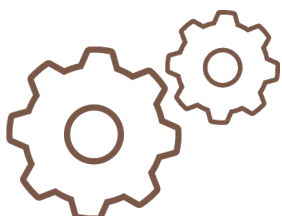
Date: December 17, 2025



Collectanea of Ethical Exemplar

Indulgence Ruins a Child's Life





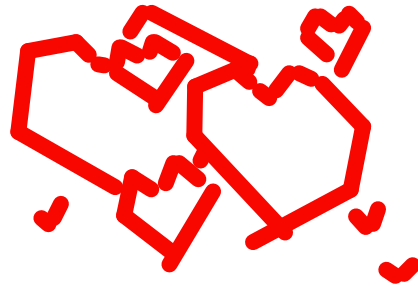
Original text

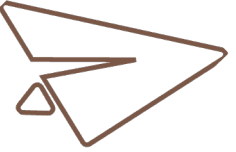
溺愛誤子（三）

相傳有一乞人。年三十餘。帶一七八歲兒。在亭煮飯。有責之者曰：「觀汝莊健。何不傭工。乃作此詩耶。」乞人曰：「是我娘害我。」問故答曰：「我家原富。幼時。我祖叫我做工夫。我娘護持不肯。事事順我。凡飲食必供我快意。及父祖沒。我一事不知。日同惡匪往來。弄出禍患。將家產賣盡。妻亦嫁人。僅遺此子。今欲傭工。不曉耕種。故帶子覓食。豈非我娘害我乎。」聞者為之長歎。

TITLE

Indulgence Ruins a Child's Life





Translation Text

TEXT

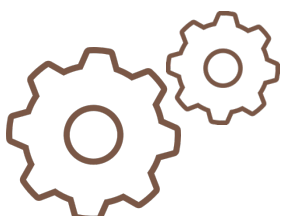
It is said that once there was a beggar in his thirties with his seven-or-eight years old son, cooking in a common shelter.



TEXT

It is said that once there was a beggar in his thirties with his seven-or-eight years old son, cooking in a common shelter.

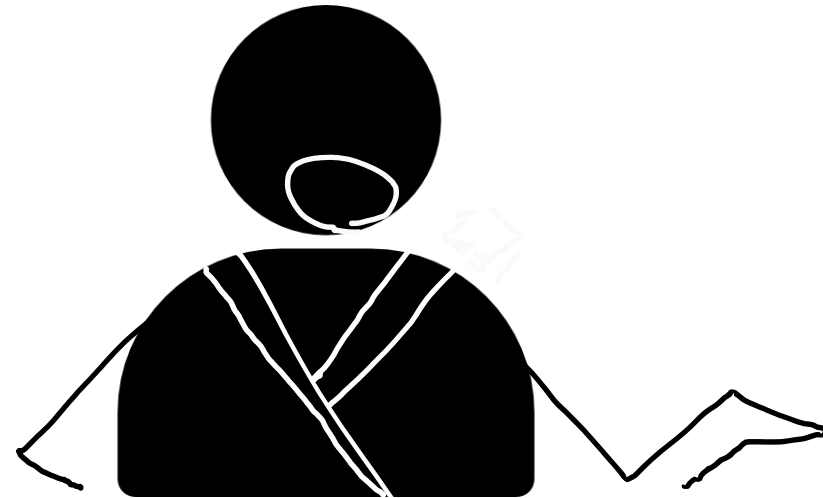




TEXT

Someone walked by asked in reproach:

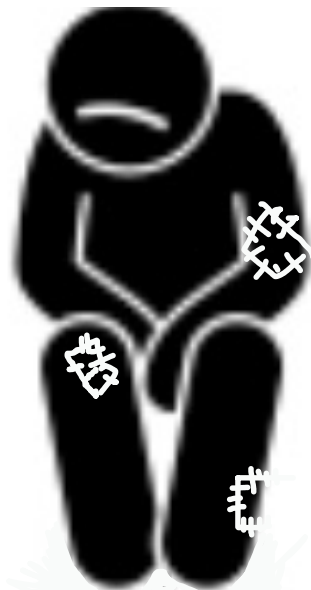
'You are healthy and strong enough to work to make a living, what is the reason for you doing this kind of thing?'



TEXT

The beggar replied:

'It was my mother who brought me to this point.'

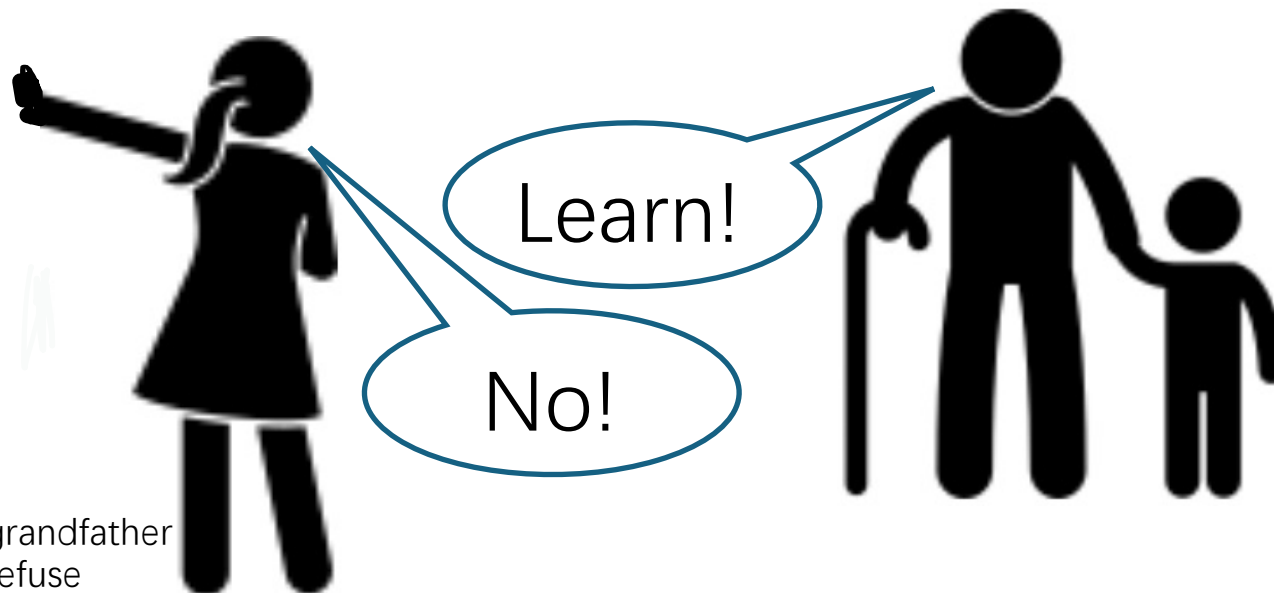


My mother.

TEXT

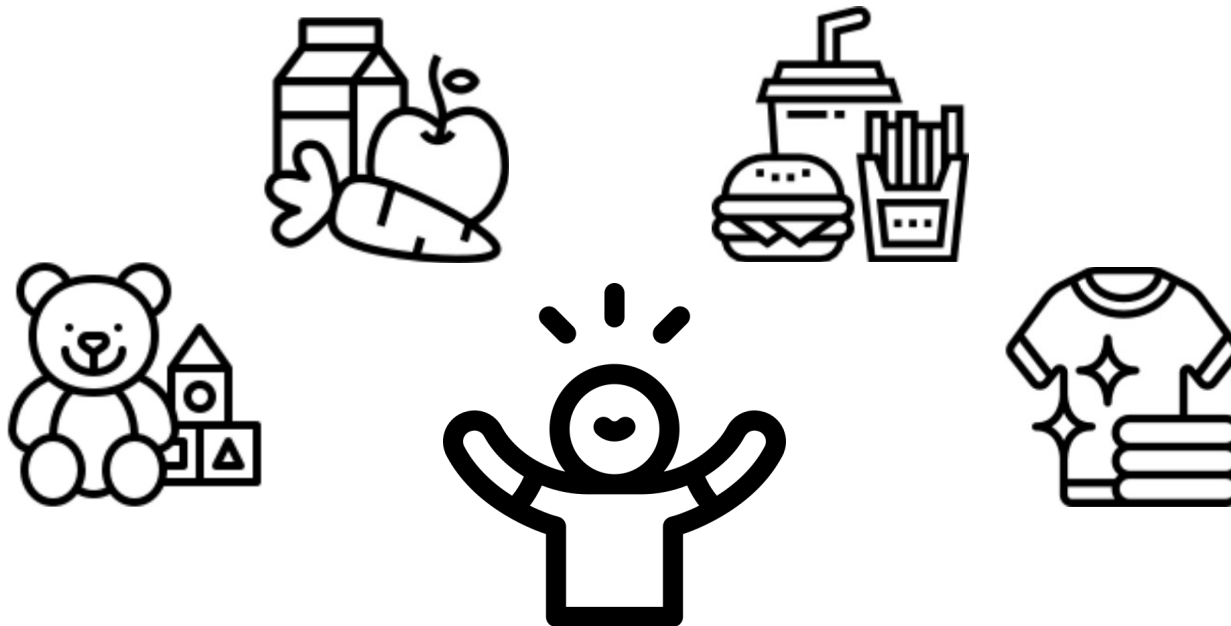
When it comes to why, he continued:

'I was born into wealth  and when I was young, my grandfather let me to learn a skill so I can go to work, but my mother refuse to let me experience any hardships.'



TEXT

She made everything go as I wish and whenever it comes to foods and frinks, she always make sure I am satisfied.



TEXT

So, I know nothing even after my father and grandfather passed away.



TEXT

I spent most of my time dealing with robbers and bandits and kept making trouble. I sold out all family property.



TEXT

My wife also left me and got remarried,
only leaving this child.



TEXT

I want to work but I do not know anything about farming. That is the reason why I can only forage with my son now.



TEXT

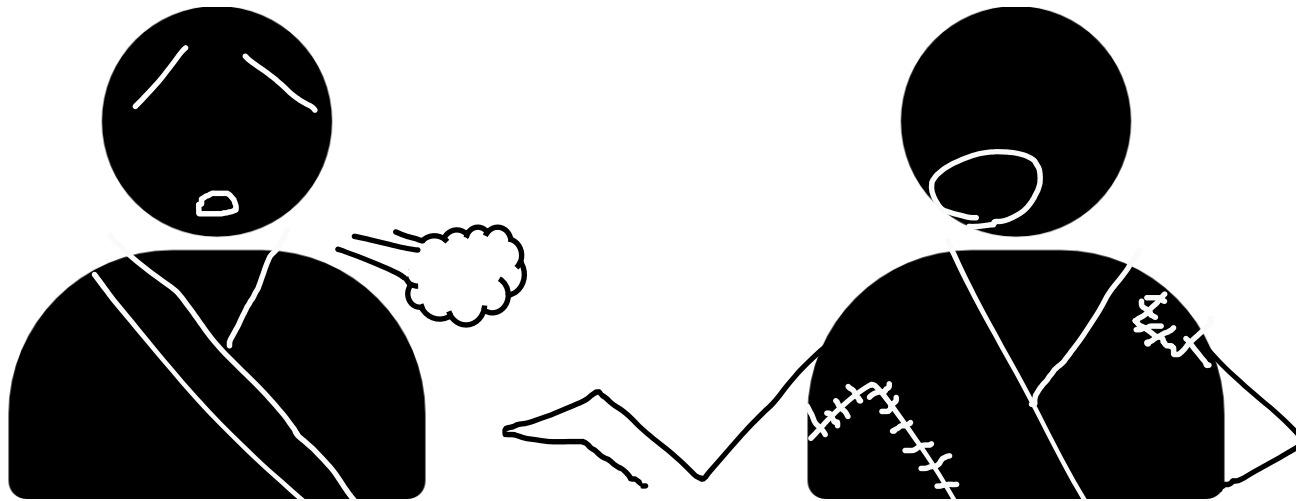
I want to work but I do not know anything about farming. That is the reason why I can only forage with my son now.

傭工
work for others

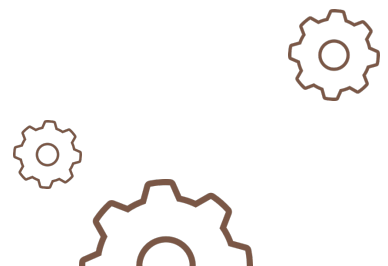


TEXT

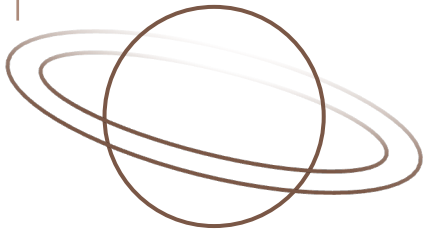
Is it not my mother who made me who I am today?'
The person listening to his story sighed for him.



The End



Reflección

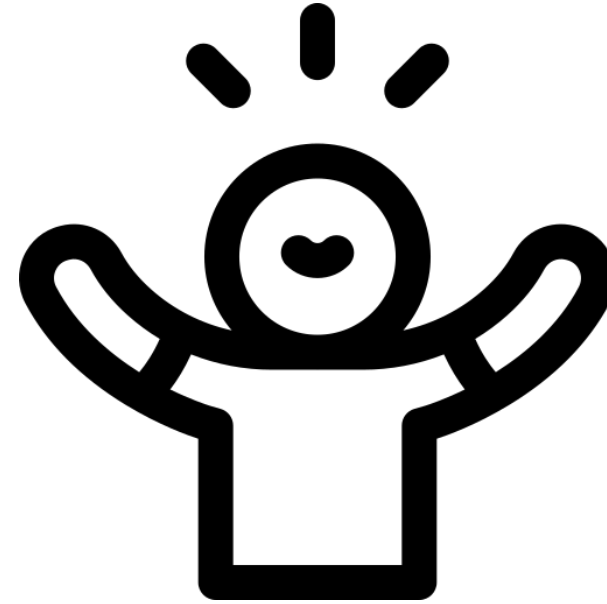


01

spoil children ✖

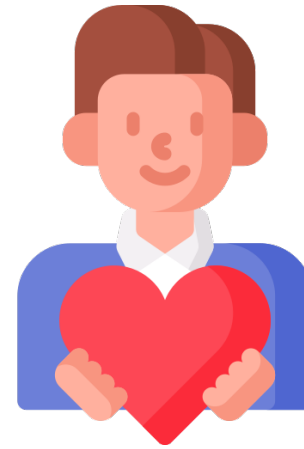


ruin their lives



02

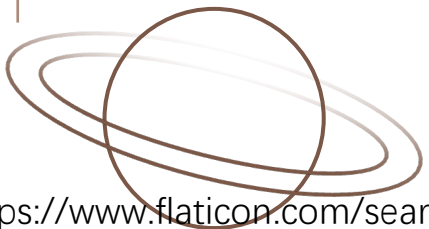
set good examples
for juniors ✓



competent parents



successful children



03

must be
autonomous

!

work hard yourself



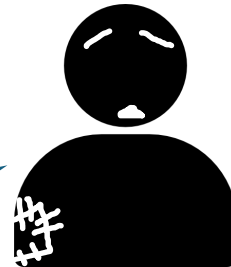
then others may help



04

take act,
don't blame !

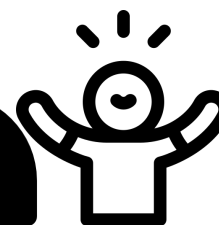
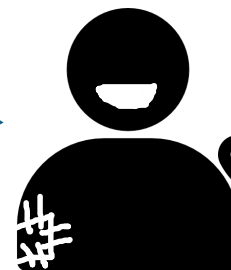
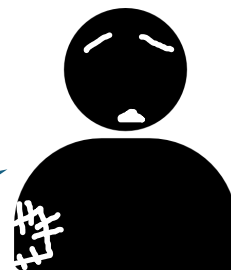
My mom spoils me
so I don't know how
to work.



04

take act,
don't blame !

My mom spoils me
so I don't know how
to work.



I should do anything
for my son to learn
a skill !



05

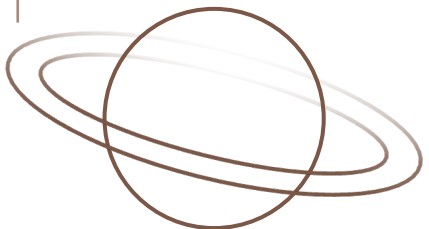
importance of
learning & reading

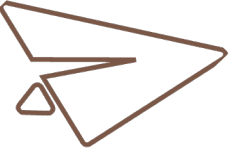
Must read !!!

!

morality

professional
knowledge





Thank you

Bibliography

Books

Chen Jingyi 陳鏡伊, *Collectanea of Ethical Exemplars* 道德叢書 (Beijing: Tuanjie chubanshe)

