

Postgraduate Assignment coversheet & feedback form

THIS SHEET MUST BE THE FIRST PAGE OF THE ASSIGNMENT YOU ARE SUBMITTING
(DO NOT SEND AS A SEPARATE FILE)

For completion by the student:		
Student Name: Siyu Liu		
Module code: SICH7029 Module title: Readings from the <i>Governing Principles of Ancient China</i> 群書治要	Student ID number: 1804594	Educational support needs: No
Module tutor: Venerable Master Chengde Assignment due date: November 8, 2024		
If your module has multiple submissions please indicate which piece of work this is. 1 st ☒ 2 nd ☐ 3 rd ☐ 4 th ☐ 5 th ☐ 6 th ☐		
Word count: 1900		
I confirm that this is my original work and that I have adhered to the University policy on plagiarism. Signed ...Siyu Liu.....		
Email submission: if you are submitting this form via email, please tick this box ☐ (as a substitute for your signature) to confirm that you agree to the above declaration.		

Assignment Mark	
1st Marker's Provisional mark	
2nd Marker's/Moderator's provisional mark	
Agreed Internal Mark:	
External Examiner's mark (if relevant)	
Final Mark	
NB. All marks are provisional until confirmed by the Final Examination Board.	

For completion by Marker 1:

Comments:	
Marker's signature:	Date:
For completion by Marker 2/Moderator:	
Comments:	
Marker's Signature:	Date:
AGREED INTERNAL MARK (where necessary): Comment on process on arriving at agreed mark:	

External Examiner's comments (if relevant)	
External Examiner's Signature:	Date:

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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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I acknowledge the use of [AI Tool 1] [(AI Tool 1 url)] on [Date] to [Purpose my work: (e.g. support my research/proofread/edit photographic material etc.)]. I used the prompt(s):

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I acknowledge the use of [AI Tool 2] [(AI Tool 2 url)] on [Date] to [Purpose my work (e.g. support my research/proofread/edit photographic material etc.)]. I used the prompt(s):

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The Approach to Knowing Others



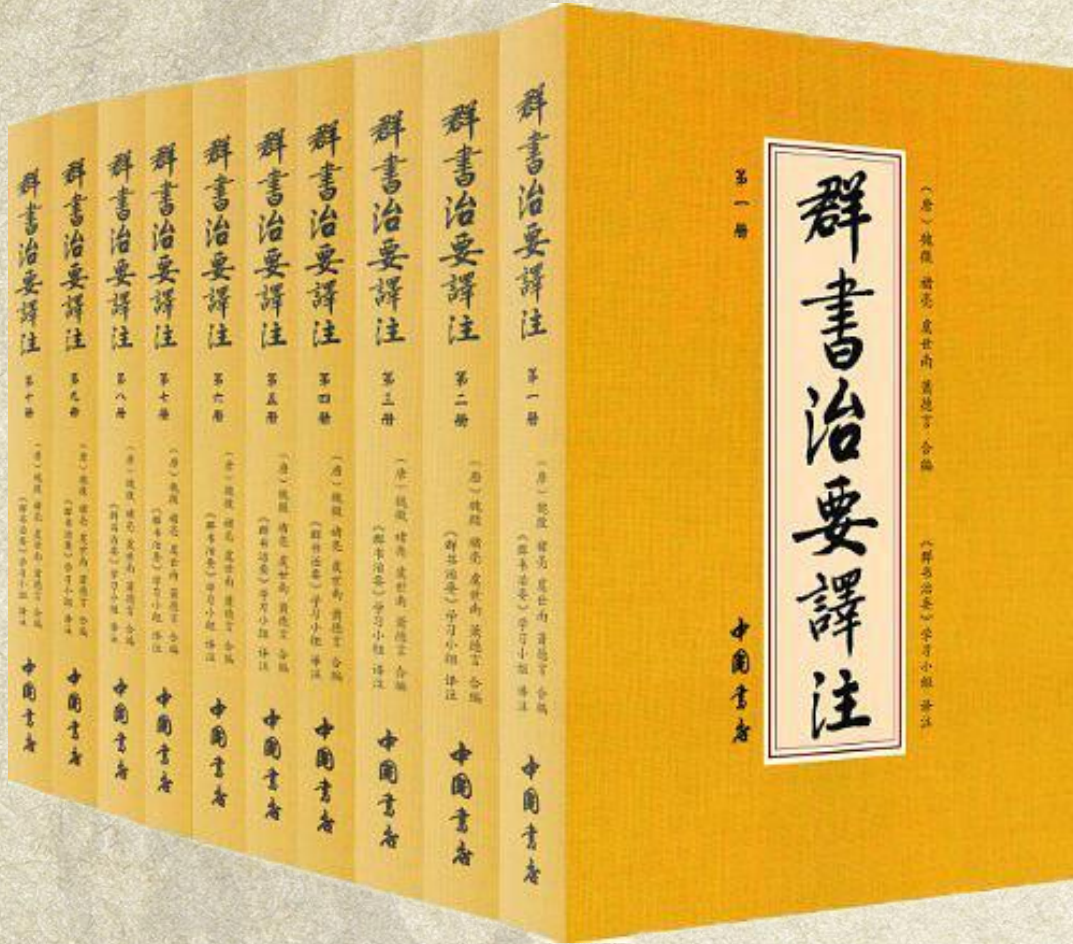
Module Code : SICH7029

Tutor: Venerable Chengde

Student Name: Siyu Liu

Student Number : 1804594

Date : 7 November 2024



The Governing Principles of Ancient China



Emperor Tang Taizong (reigned 1368-1422)

Master Lü's Spring and Autumn Annals:

In judging the character of a person, use the following Eight Observations: 1. When he is prosperous, observe to whom he pays courtesy. 2. When he is prominent and in power, observe whom he recommends or promotes. 3. When he is wealthy, observe whom he employs. 4. When he is trusted by the superior, observe whether his deeds fulfill his words. 5. When in recess, observe whether his recreational activities are in accordance with righteousness. 6. When he is serving under a superior, observe if his conversations correspond with *Dao* (the righteous path). 7. When he is in poverty and distress, observe whether he will accept ill-gotten gains. 8. When he is in a lowly position, observe whether he will insist on keeping his moral convictions. And Six Tests: 1. Bring him pleasures to test whether he can maintain his discipline. 2. Make him happy to test whether he will become evil. 3. Make him angry to test whether he is capable of controlling his anger. 4. Bring him fear to test whether he can maintain his disposition and integrity. 5. Make him feel sorrow to test his compassion and kindheartedness. 6. Put him in distress to test whether he can maintain a strong will.

The Eight Observations and Six Tests listed above are the methods used by the sage kings to assess the character of people. In addition, we can observe the way a person interacts with his Six Close Relatives and Four Relations to further our assessment. The term “Six Close Relatives” refers to the father, mother, elder brother, younger brother, wife and children. The term “Four Relations” refers to friends, acquaintances, neighbors and trusted aides. Observe a person’s interactions with his six close relatives and the four relations from within, and assess a person’s interactions with the outside world using the Eight Observations and the Six Tests. Whether he is truthful or fake, greedy or lowly, kind or evil, all will be revealed. This was the way the sage king used to identify capable people.

凡論人，通則觀其所禮，貴則觀其所進，富則觀其所養，聽則觀其所行，近則觀其所好，習則觀其所言，窮則觀其所不受，賤則觀其所不為。喜之以驗其守，樂之以驗其僻，怒之以驗其節，懼之以驗其特，哀之以驗其仁，苦之以驗其志。**八觀六驗，此賢主之所以論人也。論人必以六戚四隱。**何謂六戚？父母兄弟妻子。何謂四隱？交友故舊邑里門廊。內則用六戚四隱，外則以八觀六驗，人之情偽，貪鄙羨美，無所失矣，此先聖王之所以知人也。——《呂氏春秋》，收錄於《群書治要中修齊治平的智慧》，頁154-156，179句。

Outline

- Eight Observations
- Six Tests
- Six Close Relatives
- Four Relations





Eight Observations



1. When he is prosperous, observe to whom he pays courtesy.
2. When he is prominent and in power, observe whom he recommends or promotes.
3. When he is wealthy, observe whom he employs.

通則觀其所禮，貴則觀其所進，富則觀其所養。



Seeing someone of talent and failing to recommend them, or distancing oneself after promoting them, reflects negligence.

— — *The Great Learning*

見賢不能舉，舉而不能先，命也。

—— 《大學》





4. When he is trusted by the superior, observe whether his deeds fulfill his words.
5. When in recess, observe whether his recreational activities are in accordance with righteousness.
6. When he is serving under a superior, observe if his conversations correspond with Dao (the righteous path).

聽則觀其所行，近則觀其所好，習則觀其所言。

Words are easily fabricated and can easily please others. Thus, the ancient sages and wise rulers understood that speech comes easily and that many are drawn to flattering words, so they did not place great value on eloquence alone.

言者易撰而易悅者也。先王知言之易，而悅之者眾，故不尚焉。——晉·傅玄《傅子》，收錄於《群書治要》，卷四十九。

<https://ctext.org/posthan/zh?searchu=%E8%A8%80%E8%80%85%E6%98%93%E6%92%B0%E8%80%8C%E6%98%93%E6%82%85%E8%80%85%E4%B9%9F>

Listen to their words and observe their actions.

聽其言而觀其行。——《論語·公冶長》





7. When he is in poverty and distress, observe whether he will accept ill-gotten gains.

8. When he is in a lowly position, observe whether he will insist on keeping his moral convictions.

窮則觀其所不受， 賤則觀其所不為。



One should observe what a person is unwilling to do during times of hardship and examine whether they refuse to acquire unearned wealth in poverty.

窮則視其所不為，貧則視其所不取。——《晏子》，收錄於《群書治要中修齊治平的智慧》頁157，180句。



Six Tests

**1. Bring him pleasures
to test whether he can
maintain his discipline.**

喜之以驗其守





**2. Make him happy to test
whether he will become evil.**

樂之以驗其僻

**3. Make him angry to test
whether he is capable of
controlling his anger.**

怒之以驗其節



**4. Bring him fear to test
whether he can
maintain his disposition
and integrity.**

懼之以驗其特



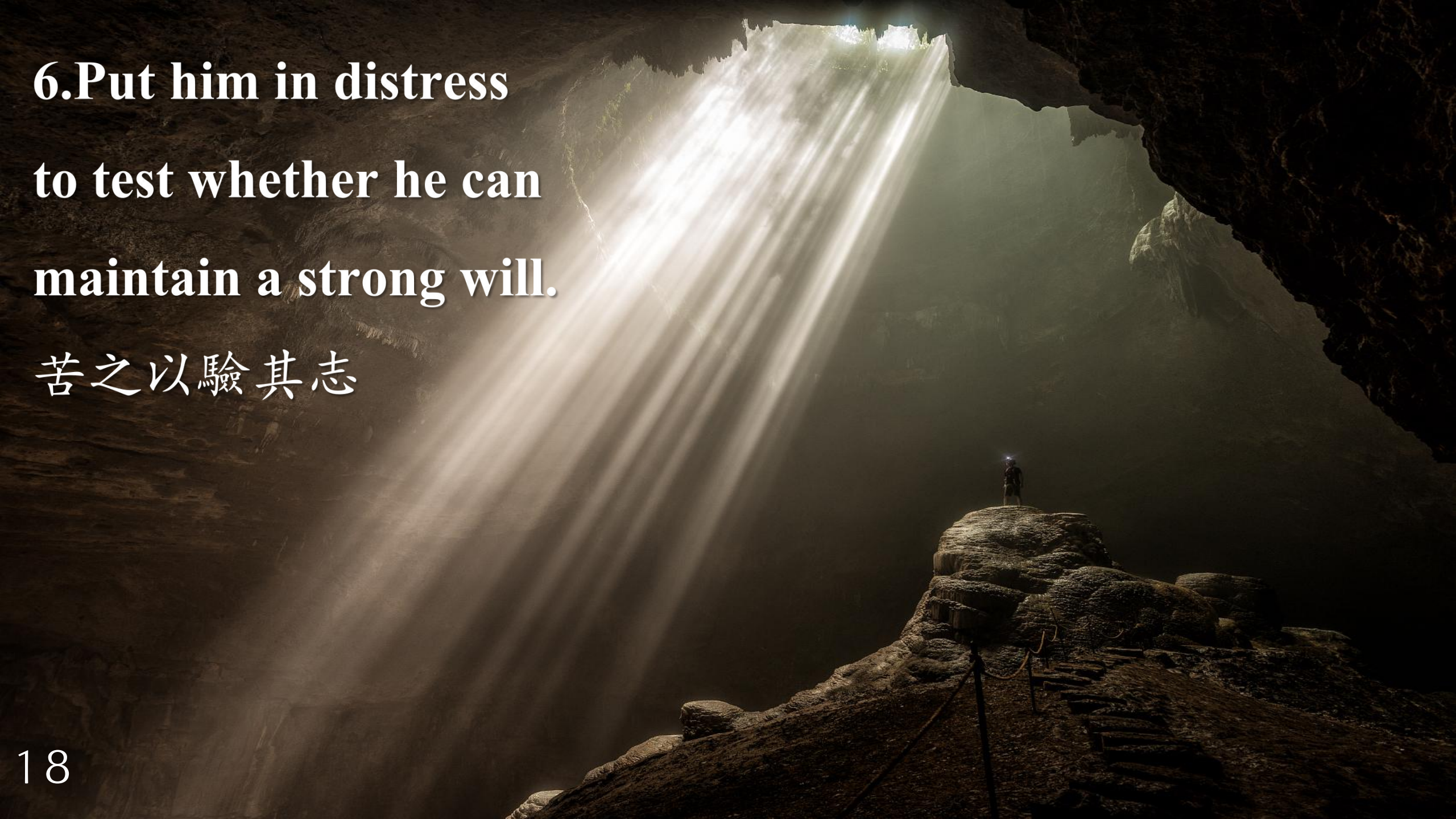
**5. Make him feel sorrow to test his compassion and
kindheartedness.**

哀之以驗其仁



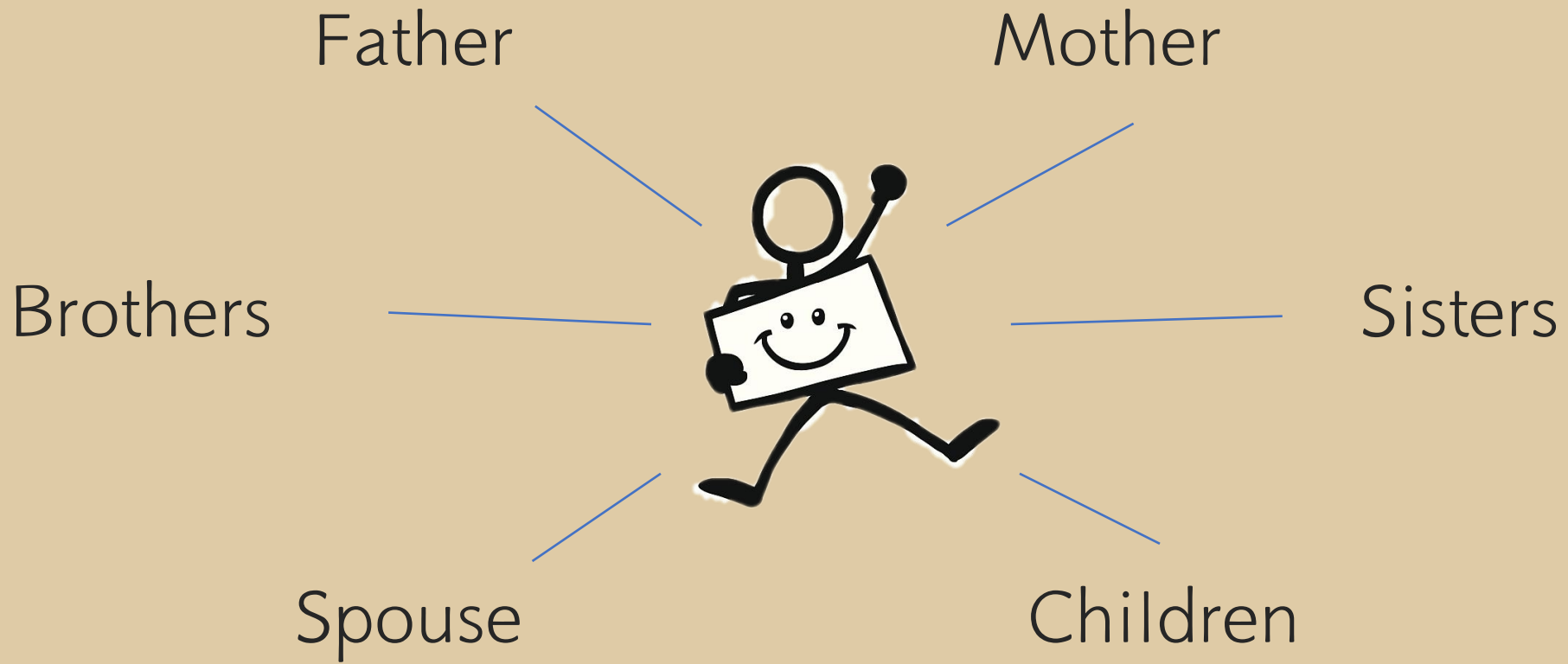
6. Put him in distress
to test whether he can
maintain a strong will.

苦之以驗其志



The background features a large, textured orange circle in the center. To the left, there are stylized bamboo leaves in shades of brown and purple. Below the circle, a crane with white and orange feathers is depicted in flight. The bottom of the circle shows stylized mountains in shades of brown. The entire scene is set against a light beige, textured background with faint geometric patterns in the corners.

Six Close Relatives



Confucius said: “The filial piety with which a man serves his parents may be transferred as loyalty to the ruler.” Thus, in order to find a loyal subordinate one only needs to look from families with filial children.

孔子曰：「事親孝，故忠可移於君。」是以求忠臣，必於孝子之門。

——《後漢書》，收錄於《群書治要中修齊治平的智慧》頁210，238句。



代國公樂工安金藏

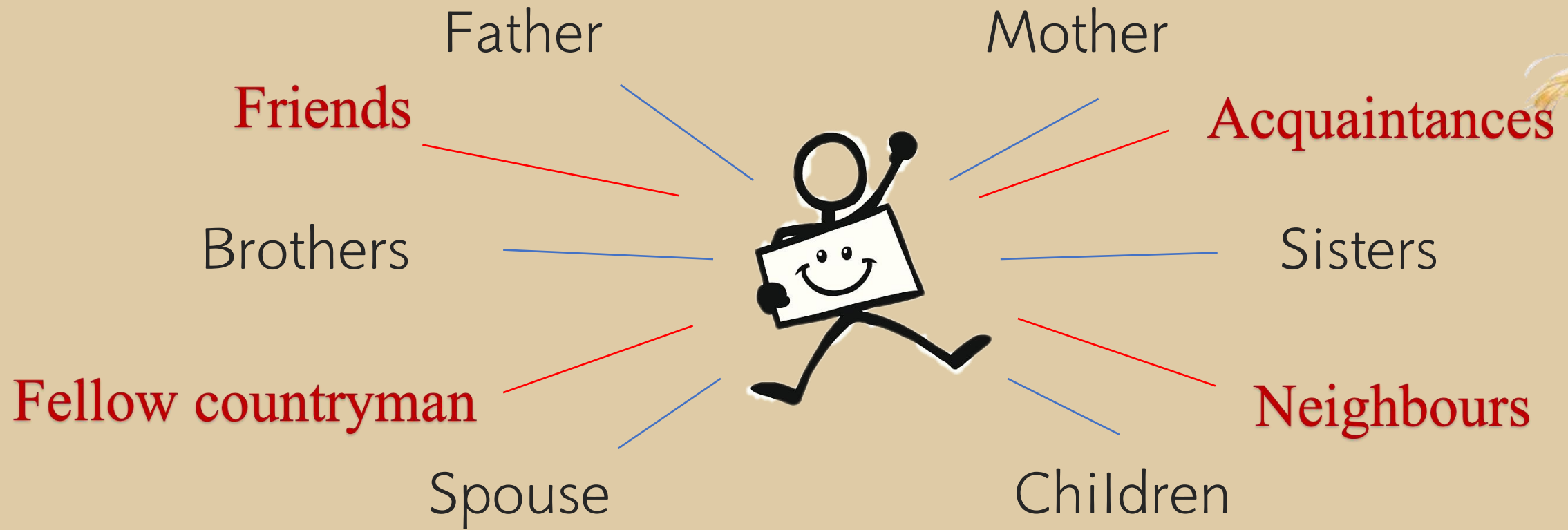
金藏京兆人在太常工
籍唐宗為皇嗣有誣
其異謀者詔來俊臣問
狀左右畏憚楚欲引服金
藏大呼請剖心以明皇嗣
不反引刀自刺五臟並派
出后聞之大驚乃嘆曰吾
有子不能自明不如爾之
忠也即詔停獄命高醫
治之閱月而蘇後爵代國
公卒配享唐宗廟廷

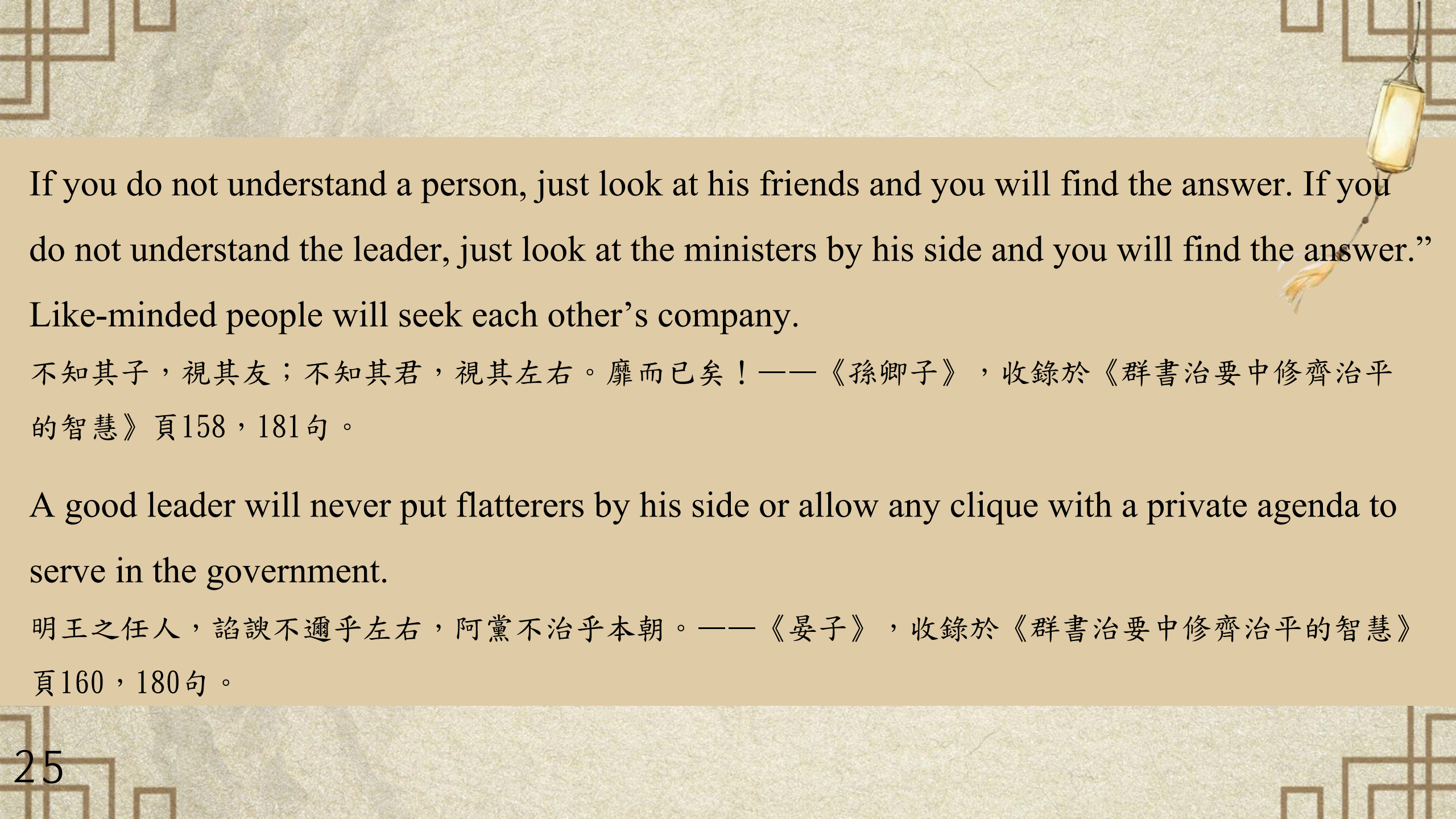


- An Jinzang 安金藏 was very filial
- He serviced under Li Dan 李旦 (Emperor Tang Ruizong)
- Li Dan was suspected by Wu Zetian 武則天.
- An Jinzang entered the court and stabbed himself to defend the prince's innocence.
- Wu Zetian spared the prince's life.

Four
Relations







If you do not understand a person, just look at his friends and you will find the answer. If you do not understand the leader, just look at the ministers by his side and you will find the answer.”

Like-minded people will seek each other's company.

不知其子，視其友；不知其君，視其左右。靡而已矣！——《孫卿子》，收錄於《群書治要中修齊治平的智慧》頁158，181句。

A good leader will never put flatterers by his side or allow any clique with a private agenda to serve in the government.

明王之任人，諂諛不邇乎左右，阿黨不治乎本朝。——《晏子》，收錄於《群書治要中修齊治平的智慧》頁160，180句。



Conclusion



Observe a person's interactions with his six close relatives and the four relations from within, and assess a person's interactions with the outside world using the Eight Observations and the Six Tests. Whether he is truthful or fake, greedy or lowly, kind or evil, all will be revealed. This was the way the sage king used to identify capable people.

內則用六戚四隱，外則以八觀六驗，人之情偽，貪鄙羨美，無所失矣，此先聖王之所以知人也。——

《呂氏春秋》，收錄於《群書治要中修齊治平的智慧》，頁154-156，179句。

Thank you for listening

