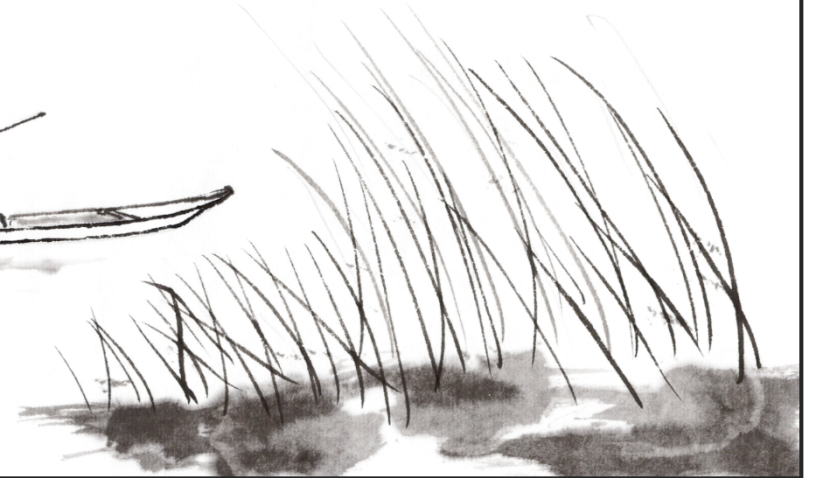


The Practical Value of “Bu lǚ xié jīng, bù qī àn shì” 不履邪徑，不欺暗室 of *The Treatise on Response and Retribution*



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Part1: The meaning of “Bu lǚ xié jīng bù qī àn shì”



不履邪徑，不欺暗室

Bu lü xie jing 不履邪徑



- the character lü 履, "what the foot depends on" → "to trample"
- the character xie 邪, "a county named Lang Ya" → "evil"
- the character jing 徑, "path" → "small path only for walking"



Literal meaning : "don't follow the back roads"

■ Two extended meaning of “Bu lü xie jing”

- ◆ Actual behavior: “not to do even small bad things”
- ◆ Spirit: “not to bear bad thoughts in mind ”

the character xie 邪: sinister ? ❌

Deviated from the right path ✓



■ What is the right path?

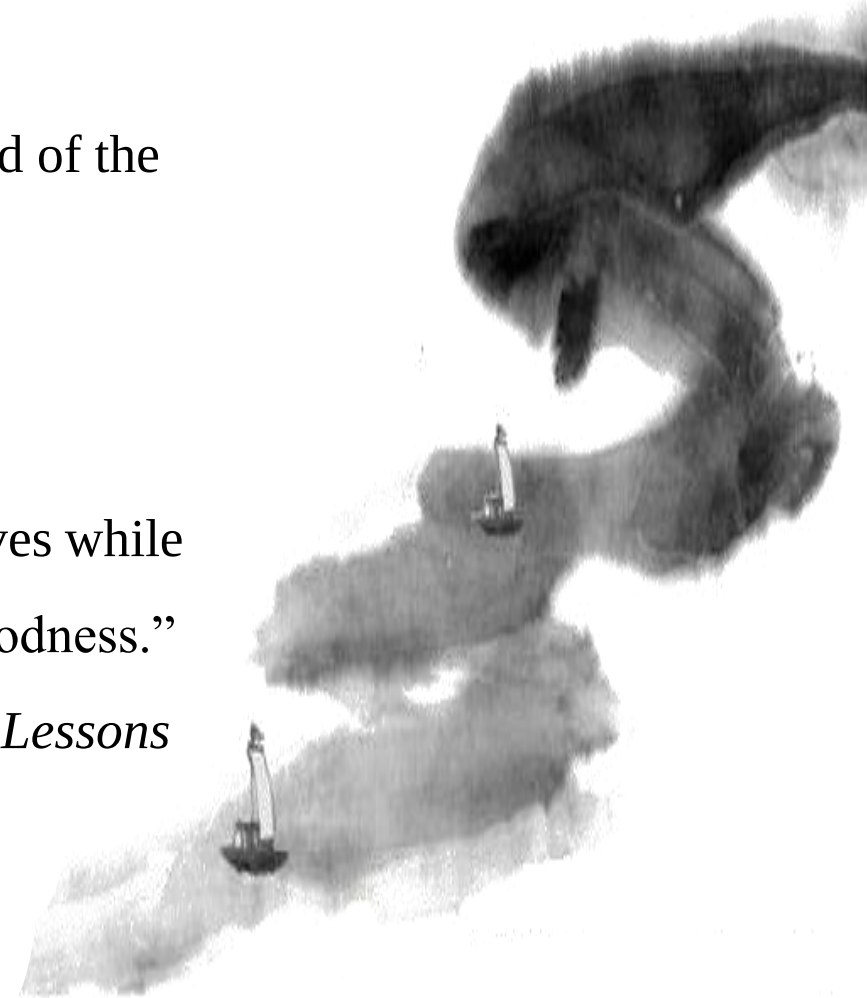
- “The mind of the superior man is conversant with righteousness; the mind of the mean man is conversant with gain.”

「君子喻於義，小人喻於利。」——*Analects of Confucius*

- “If it is for the public, then it is real goodness. If we only think of ourselves while doing good acts, then that is considered private benefit and that is false goodness.”

「利人者公，公則為真；利己者私，私則為假。」——*LiaoFan's Four Lessons*

Conclusion: If it is for one's own interests, then such behavior and thought are regarded as in the "bad path".



■ The meaning of “bu qi an shi” 不欺暗室

self-disciplined 慎獨



"The gentleman is cautious where no one sees him and where no one hears him. From the most subtle and tiny words or deeds, one's quality can be seen. So the gentleman should learn to be prudent when alone" 「君子戒慎乎其所不睹，恐懼乎其所不聞。莫見乎隱，莫顯乎微。故君子慎其獨也。」——*The Book of Rites: the Doctrine of the Mean*

“Depending on the severity of a person's individual offenses, the spirits of justice shortens his or her original lifespan in proportion to the level of wickedness involved.” 「三臺北斗神君，在人頭上，錄人罪惡，奪其紀算。」





Part2: What is the Practical Value to be found in this phrase



Social reality

- ◆ People tend to think more about their personal interests.
- ◆ “All men have a mind which cannot bear to see the sufferings of others.” 「人皆有不忍人之心。」—— *Mencius*
- ◆ “Superiors and inferiors will try to snatch this profit the one from the other, and the kingdom will be endangered.” 「上下交爭利國危矣」—— *Mencius*



The family education

■ “The habits formed at an early age will turn into natural and solid human nature” 「少成若天性，習慣成自然。」

■ "one's character is formed at a young age and lasts till he is eighty"

「三歲看八十」

■ The family education { behavior
spirit



Parents and children



- ◆ set a good example for their children
- ◆ wrong understanding: those who can make money and who are knowledgeable and skillful are good children.



◆ Selfishness is the reason behind the modern society's
“people vying with each other for benefit”

◆ We need to build a good family education, and this phrase
reveals the most important concept of behavior education
and spirit education in a family.

Conclusion

