

What People Should Know Before They Join the Traditional Remembrance Ceremony for Ancestors

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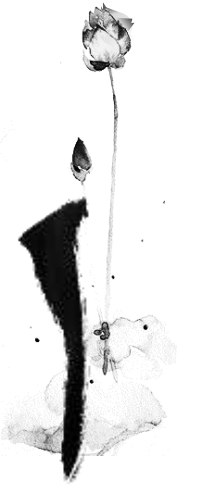


1. The main reason of ancient Chinese holding remembrance ceremony
2. Is the ceremony's form or the officiant's feelings more important
3. Reflection and a conclusion



Liji 禮記 The Book of Rites
Jiyi 祭義 Chapter

*Ji*祭 : Remembrance Ceremony
*Yi*義 : Meanings



Sun Xidan 孫希旦: five parts of *Jiyi* 祭義

1.1 The meaning of remembrance

ceremony 祭祀之義

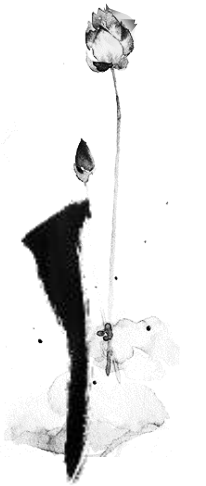
1.2 How rules of propriety and music

nourish human beings 禮樂之養人

1.3 Filial respect for parents 孝親之道

1.4 The importance of valuing the orders
of young and old 尚齒之義

1.5 The last few sentence to bring back
the theme of remembrance ceremony 又專
以祭祀言之



1.1 The meaning of remembrance ceremony 祭祀之義

***Zhaijie* 齋戒 : self-purification**

Sanzhai 散齋 : the loose self-purification
(7 days)



Zhizhai 致齋 : the concentrated self-purification
(3 days)



1.1 The meaning of remembrance ceremony 祭祀之義

Zhizhai 致齋：

思其居處，思其笑語，思其志意，思其所樂，思其所嗜。

‘Remember the deceased’s living place, remember his smile and words, his aspiration and idea, his interest and favour’.

—— *Liji Jiyi* 禮記·祭義



1.2 How rules of propriety and music nourish human beings 禮樂之養人

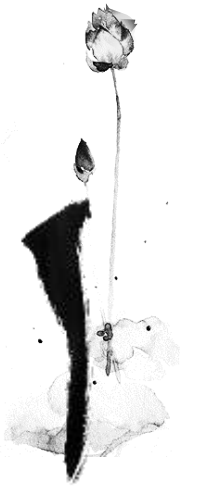
天下之禮，致反始也。

‘All the rules of propriety under heaven, are to return to the root’.

君子反古復始，不忘其所由生也，是以.....竭力從事，以報其親。

‘A man of virtue going back to his ancestors and returning to the origin of his life’.

—— *Liji Jiyi* 禮記·祭義



必夫婦親之。

‘The husband and wife prepare
them in person’.

苟可以薦者，莫不咸在。

‘Whatever can be prepared
should all be prepared’.

—— *Liji Jitong* 禮記·祭統



1.3 Filial respect

孝親之道

1.4 Sibling Love

尚齒之義

弟子入則孝，出則悌。

‘Young people should practice filiality at home and practice sibling love when out’ .

——*The Analects*

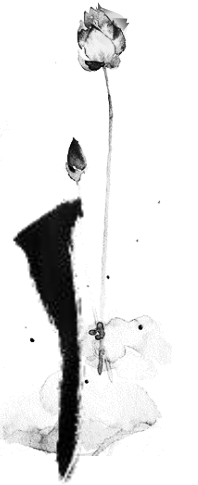


1.4 The importance of valuing the orders of young and old 尚齒之義

天子有善，讓德於天；諸侯有善，歸諸天子.....士、庶人有善，本諸父母，存諸長老。

‘The King credits his kindness to heaven, lords credit their kindness to the King.....scholars and common people credit their kindness to their parents and ancestors’.

—— *Liji Jiyi* 禮記·祭義





2. Is the ceremony's form or the officiant's feelings more important?



2. ceremony's form or officiant's feelings

祭不欲數，數則煩，煩則不敬。祭不欲疏，疏則怠，怠則忘。

Frequency causes irritation, irritation means losing respect.

Scarceness causes indolence, indolence leads to forgetfulness.

—— *Liji Jiyi* 禮記·祭義



2. Is the ceremony's form or the officiant's feelings more important

The Analects:

子貢欲去告朔之餼羊。



2. Is the ceremony's form or the officiant's feelings more important

汝愛其羊，我愛其禮。

‘You feel distressed to see the sheep (being killed), but I feel distressed to see the ceremony (being discarded)’.

—— *The Analects*



2. Is the ceremony's form or the officiant's feelings more important



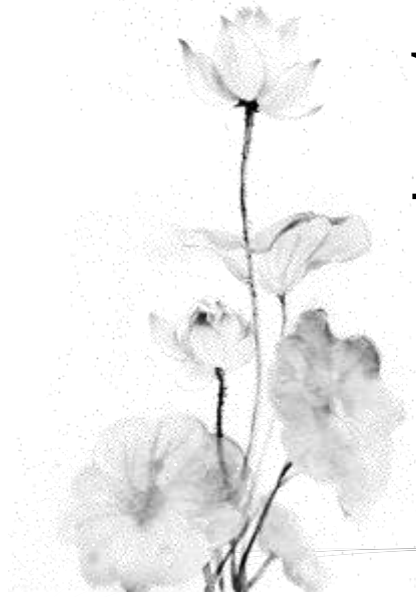
Photo by 0492231707.com.tw

容以遠，若容以自反也，夫何神明之及交。

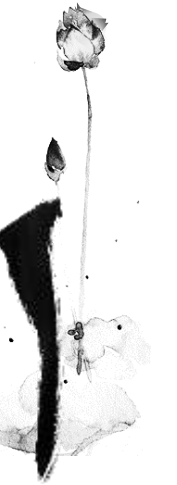
‘If my appearance looked distant, my mentality was being cautious, then how can I feel and communicate with my ancestors’.

—— *Liji Jiyi* 禮記·祭義

3. Conclusion and reflection :
what is the reason of lack of touch
today?



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3. Conclusion and reflection : what is the reason of lack of touch today?



Thank you for listening

