



Undergraduate assignment feedback form

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<i>Student Name: Wen yuan Guan</i>	
<i>Module Code: SICH5002</i>	<i>Student number: 1804022</i>
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A Translation of Verse 9 Chapter 6 of the *Analects of Confucius* 論語 and Its Selected Annotations



Module Code:

SICH5002

Module Tutor:

Miss. Jie Deng

Student ID:

1804022

Student Name:

Wenyuan Guan

Date:

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Original text and translation of verse 6:9 of the *Analects of Confucius*

季氏使閔子騫為費宰。閔子騫曰：「善為我辭焉。
如有復我者，則吾必在汶上矣。」

Jishi wanted Min Ziqian to be the chief of Bi fief. Min
Ziqian said (to the messenger): ‘Please skilfully reject
him for me. If you come to invite me again, I will leave
here and go to the state of Qi.’



Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Lunyu jiangyao 論語講要 – Part A



費，古注讀密，然山東當地人皆讀費之本音。

Bi is pronounced mi in ancient annotations. But the local people in Shandong read the original pronunciation of Bi.



Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Lunyu jiangyao 論語講要 – Part A



孔安國注：「費，季氏邑。季氏不臣，而其邑宰數叛，
聞閔子騫賢，故欲用之。」

Kong Anguo commented: 'Bi is an area under the jurisdiction
of Jishi. Jishi's words and deeds did not conform to the rules
of the officials. At the same time, the chief of his fief rebelled
several times. Jishi heard that Min Ziqian was talented and
virtuous, so he wanted to appoint him.'



Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Lunyu jiangyao 論語講要 – Part A

「閔子不欲為季氏宰，語使者曰，善為我作辭說，令不復召我也。復我者，重來召我也。去之汶水上，欲北入齊也。」

‘Min Ziqian didn't want to be Jishi's subordinate. He said to the messenger that: “please help me thank and refuse Jishi skilfully so that Jishi won't come to me again. If someone comes to invite me again, I will go to the north of the Wen River, and then go to the state of Qi.” ’

Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Lunyu jiangyao 論語講要 – Part B

孔子為魯司寇時，閔子騫曾為費宰，孔子辭去，閔子騫亦辭去。

When Confucius was the minister of justice of Lu, Min Ziqian used to be the chief of Bi fief. After Confucius resigned, Min Ziqian also resigned from his post.

Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Lunyu jiangyao 論語講要 – Part B

後以三家不聽魯君之命，而費邑之宰亦叛季氏，是以季氏
使閔子騫為費宰。

Later, because the three families did not obey the orders of
the monarch of Lu, the officials of Bi fief also betrayed Jishi.
Thus, Jishi wanted Min Ziqian to be the chief of his fief.

Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Lunyu jiangyao 論語講要 – Part B

然閔子不願遂季氏之私，故辭之，且堅告使者，如再來召，
則吾必不在家，而在汶河之上矣。

However, Min Ziqian did not want to achieve Jishi's personal
interests, so he declined. And Min Ziqian firmly told the
messenger that if someone came to invite him for the second
time, he would definitely not be at home, but go to the north of
the Wen River.

Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Lunyu jiangyao 論語講要 – Part B

汶河東北是齊國，在汶上，意謂避至齊國也。儒者去就，
於此可見其概焉。

To the northeast of the Wen River is the state of Qi. To go
to the north of the Wen River means to retreat to Qi. Their
integrity can be seen from the fact that the scholars assume
or not assume the office.

Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Sishu zhangjuzhuzhu 四書章句集註 – Part A

閔子騫，孔子弟子，名損，費，季氏邑。汶，水名，在齊南
魯北境上。

Min Ziqian was a disciple of Confucius, and his name was Sun.

Bi was Jishi's fief. Wen was the name of the river, which was
south of Qi and north of Lu.



Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Sishu zhangjuzhuzhu 四書章句集註 – Part A



閔子不欲臣季氏，令使者善為己辭。言若再來召我，則當去之齊。

Min Zi didn't want to be Jishi's subordinate, so he asked the messenger to decline for him skilfully. He said that if the messenger came to invite him again, he would leave here and go to Qi.



Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Sishu zhangjuzhuzhu 四書章句集註 – Part A



程子曰：「仲尼之門，能不仕大夫之家者，閔子、曾子數人而已。」

Cheng Zi said: ‘Among the disciples of Confucius, only a few people, including Min Zi and Zeng Zi, could refuse to work under the senior officials.’



Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Sishu zhangjuzhuzhu 四書章句集註 – Part B



謝氏曰：「學者能少知內外之分，皆可以樂道而忘人之勢。」

Xieshi said: 'If learners can reduce their attachment to profit and fame, they can find happiness in Dao and ignore the power of others.'



Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Sishu zhangjuzhuzhu 四書章句集註 – Part B



「況閔子得聖人為之依歸，彼其視季氏不義之富貴，不啻犬彘。又從而臣之，豈其心哉？」

‘Moreover, Min Zi learned from and followed the sage. He treated Jishi's ill-gotten gains like dogs and pigs. How could it meet his wishes to obey Jishi and work under him?’



Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Sishu zhangjuzhuzhu 四書章句集註 – Part B



「在聖人則有不然者，蓋居亂邦、見惡人，在聖人則可；自聖人以下，剛則必取禍，柔則必取辱。」

‘The situation is different for sages. Sages can live in chaotic areas and face the wicked. When people who are not as good as sages encounter such a situation, those who are resolute will cause trouble, and those who are submissive will be insulted.’



Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Sishu zhangjuzhuzhu 四書章句集註 – Part B



「閔子豈不能早見而豫待之乎？如由也不得其死，求也為季氏附益，夫豈本心哉？」

‘How could Min Zi not have foreseen this and taken precautions?
For example, Zhongyou didn't end well, and Ranqiu accumulated
wealth for Jishi. Could it be their original intention?’



Original text and translation of the annotation of verse 6:9 in
Sishu zhangjuzhuzhu 四書章句集註 – Part B



「蓋即無先見之知，又無克亂之才故也。然則閔子其賢乎？」

‘That’s just because they have neither the foresight nor the talent to pacify chaos. This is probably the aspect of Min Zi's talent and virtue.’



Commentary



宰



chief

administrator

subordinate



Commentary



汶，水名，在齊南魯北竟上。

Wen was the name of the river, which was south of Qi and north of Lu.



Commentary



學者能少知內外之分，皆可以樂道而忘人之勢。

If scholars can **reduce their attachment to profit and fame**,
they can find happiness in Dao and ignore the power of
others.



Self-Reflection





Thank you.

