

AI Acknowledgement

☐ 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 ChatGPT (<https://chatgpt.com/>) on 19 January 2025 to check my work. I used the prompt(s):

1. Please check the following text for readability, grammar and syntax.

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Inspirations from the Story of Peng Meng and Yi in *Mencius*

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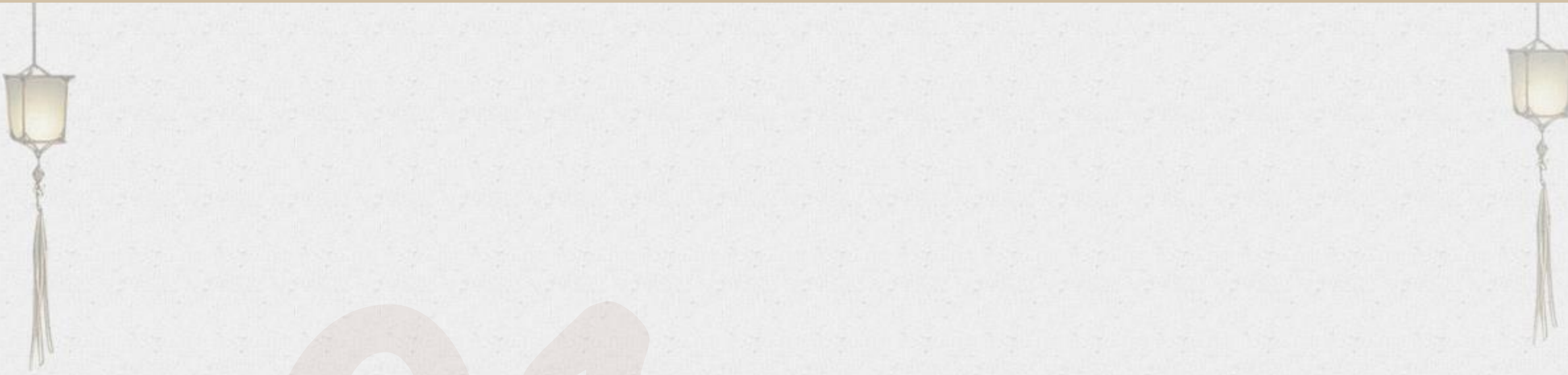
Date: 22 January 2025



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Two traditional Chinese lanterns with tassels hang from the top corners of the slide.

01 The Story in Mencius



Peng Meng learned archery from Yi. When he had fully mastered Yi's Way, he thought that the only one in the world superior to himself was Yi. So he killed Yi.

Mencius said, "Yi, too, was culpable in this."

逢蒙學射於羿，盡羿之道，思天下惟羿為愈己，於是殺羿。孟子曰：「是亦羿有罪焉。」

Mencius 4B.24 (trans. Irene Bloom)





Gongming Yi said, “He seems to have been without culpability.” [Mencius replied,] “It may have been small, but how can it be said that he was without culpability?”

公明儀曰：「宜若無罪焉。」曰：「薄乎云爾，惡得無罪？」

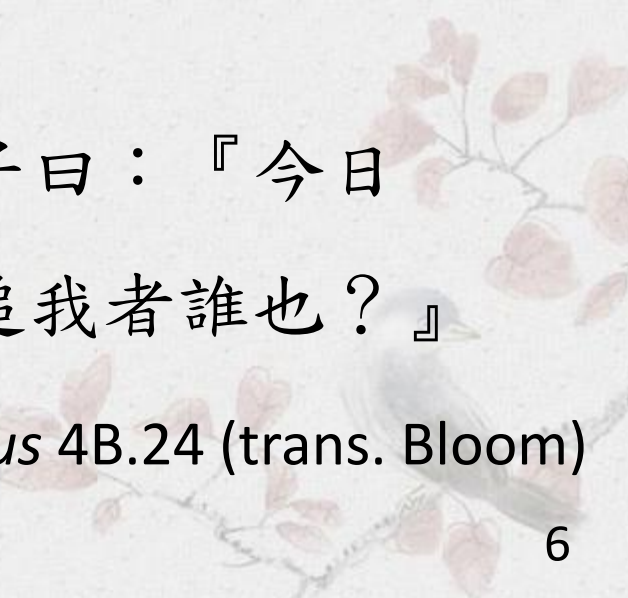
Mencius 4B.24 (trans. Bloom)





The people of Zheng sent Zizhuo Ruzi to invade Wei. Wei sent Yugong Si in pursuit of him. Zizhuo Ruzi said, 'Today I am sick and cannot hold my bow. I shall die.' He asked his driver, 'Who is it that is pursuing me?' The driver said, 'Yugong Si.' Zizhuo Ruzi said, 'I shall live.'

鄭人使子濯孺子侵衛，衛使庾公之斯追之。子濯孺子曰：『今日我疾作，不可以執弓，吾死矣夫！』問其僕曰：『追我者誰也？』其僕曰：『庾公之斯也。』曰：『吾生矣。』 *Mencius* 4B.24 (trans. Bloom)

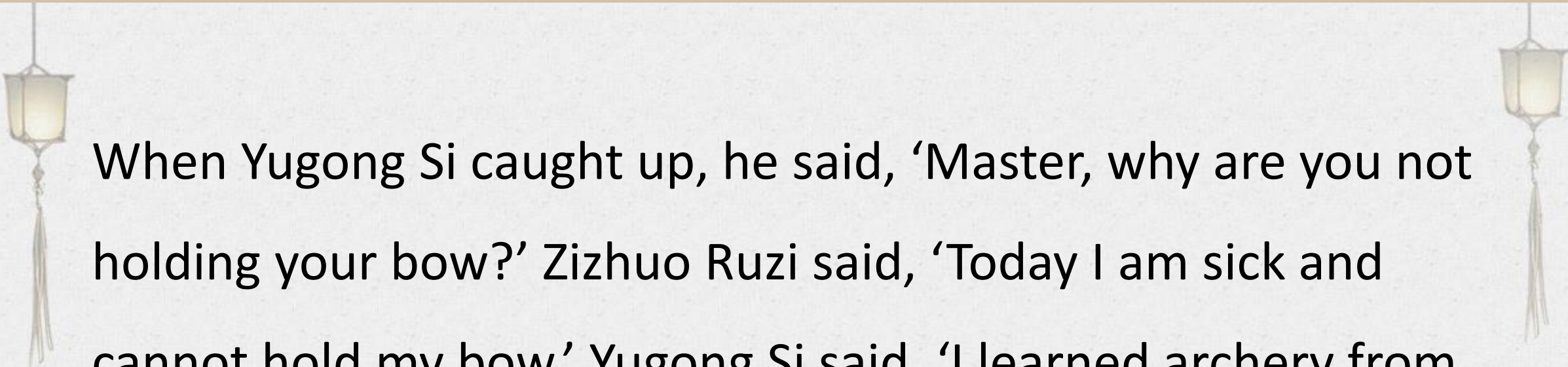




The driver said, 'Yugong Si is the best archer in Wei. And yet you say, "I shall live." What do you mean?' He said, 'Yugong Si learned archery from Yingong To, and Yingong To learned archery from me. Yingong To is a principled person and the friends whom he chooses must be principled as well.'

其僕曰：『庾公之斯，衛之善射者也，夫子曰「吾生」，何謂也？』曰：『庾公之斯學射於尹公之他，尹公之他學射於我。夫尹公之他，端人也，其取友必端矣。』 *Mencius* 4B.24 (trans. Bloom)





When Yugong Si caught up, he said, ‘Master, why are you not holding your bow?’ Zizhuo Ruzi said, ‘Today I am sick and cannot hold my bow.’ Yugong Si said, ‘I learned archery from Yingong To, and Yingong To learned it from you, Master. I cannot bear to inflict harm on you by using your Way against you.

庾公之斯至，曰：『夫子何為不執弓？』曰：『今日我疾作，不可以執弓。』曰：『小人學射於尹公之他，尹公之他學射於夫子。我不忍以夫子之道反害夫子。』

Mencius 4B.24 (trans. Bloom)

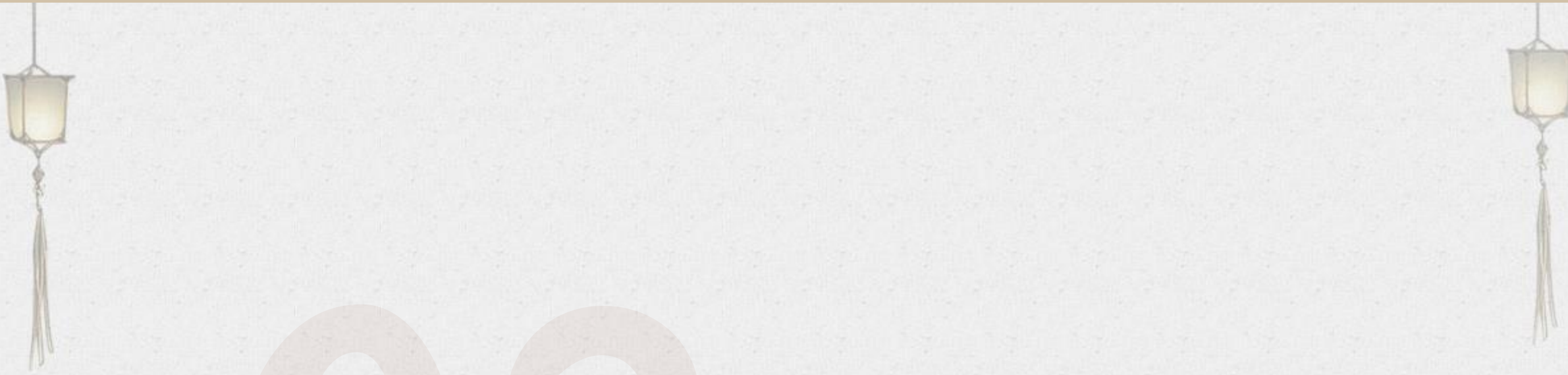


Still, today's work is the work of the ruler, which I do not dare to neglect.' He drew out his arrows, knocked the tips off against the wheel, and shot off four of them before returning."

雖然，今日之事，君事也，我不敢廢。』抽矢扣輪，去其金，發乘矢而後反。」

Mencius 4B.24 (trans. Bloom)



Two traditional Chinese lanterns with tassels hang in the top corners of the slide.

02 Insights from Learning



1. Choosing friends, choosing disciples

Confucius said, Three kinds of friends are beneficial; three kinds are harmful. Straightforward friends, sincere friends, well-informed friends—these are beneficial. Hypocritical friends, sycophantic friends, glib-talking friends—these are harmful.

孔子曰：「益者三友，損者三友。友直，友諒，友多聞，益矣。友便辟，友善柔，友便佞，損矣。」

Analects 16.4 (trans. Burton Watson)



1. Choosing friends, choosing disciples

If the appropriate persons are met, it is to be handed over to them. To those who are not the appropriate persons, nothing is said.

得其人乃傳，非其人勿言。

“Function and Competence” (Guanneng 官能)

The Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine (Huangdi Neijing 黃帝內經)

(trans. Paul U. Unschuld)



2. Virtue is more important than talent

The Master said, Although one may have talents as admirable as those of the duke of Zhou, if he employs them in an arrogant or a mean manner, then whatever other qualities he has are not worth a look!

子曰：「如有周公之才之美，使驕且吝，其餘不足觀也已。」

Analects 8.11 (trans. Watson)





2. Virtue is more important than talent

Talent is the support of virtue, and virtue is the leader of one's talent.

才者，德之資也，德者，才之帥也。

When virtue surpasses talent, one is called a noble person.

When talent surpasses virtue, one is called a petty person.

德勝才謂之君子，才勝德謂之小人。

Sima Guang 司馬光, *Zizhi Tongjian* 資治通鑒 (Comprehensive Mirror in Aid of Governance)

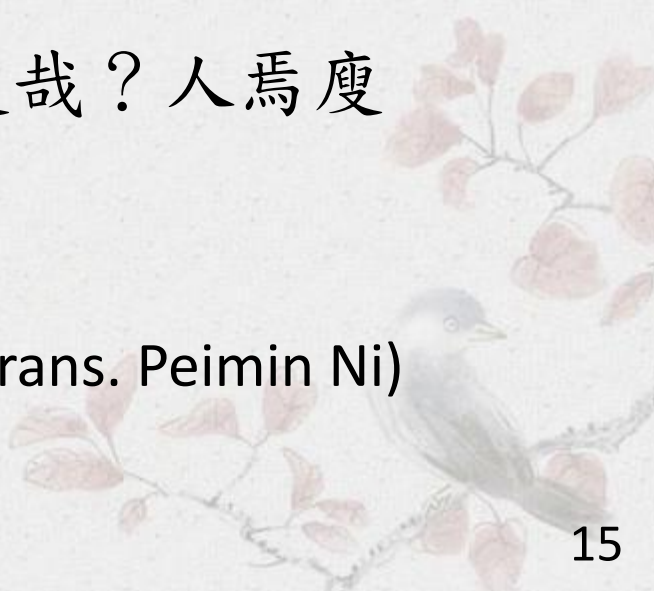


3. The wisdom of knowing a person

The Master said, “Watch what people do, observe what they follow, examine in what they feel at ease. How can they conceal? How can they conceal?”

子曰：「視其所以，觀其所由，察其所安。人焉廋哉？人焉廋哉？」

Analects 2.10 (Trans. Peimin Ni)





3. The wisdom of knowing a person

Mencius said, “When observing someone... If one listens to his words and observes the pupils of his eyes, what can a person hide?”

孟子曰：「……聽其言也，觀其眸子，人焉廋哉？」

Mencius 4A.15 (Trans. Bloom)

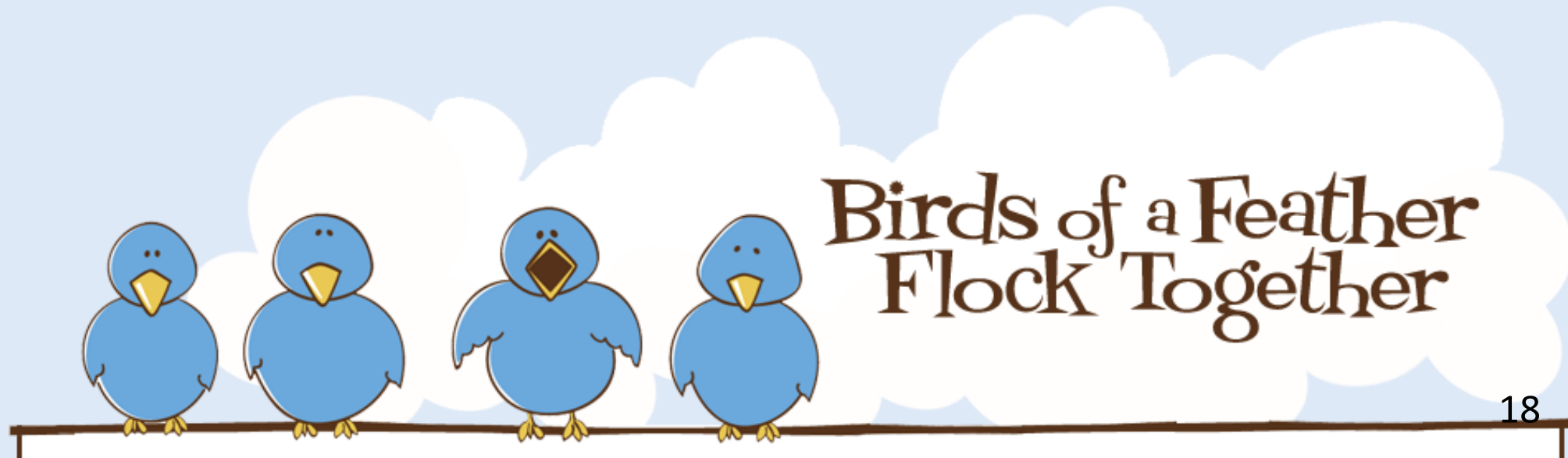


03

Conclusion



- Choose your friend and disciples wisely
- Value our cultivation of virtue



The background features a light beige, textured surface. In the top corners, there are two hanging lanterns with warm yellow light and long tassels. In the bottom left, a branch with yellow blossoms and a small brown bird is depicted. In the bottom right, a branch with pink blossoms and a small grey bird is shown. Two white birds are flying in the upper right quadrant.

Thanks for listening

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