

The Enlightenment of Ancient Chinese Characters to Modern People

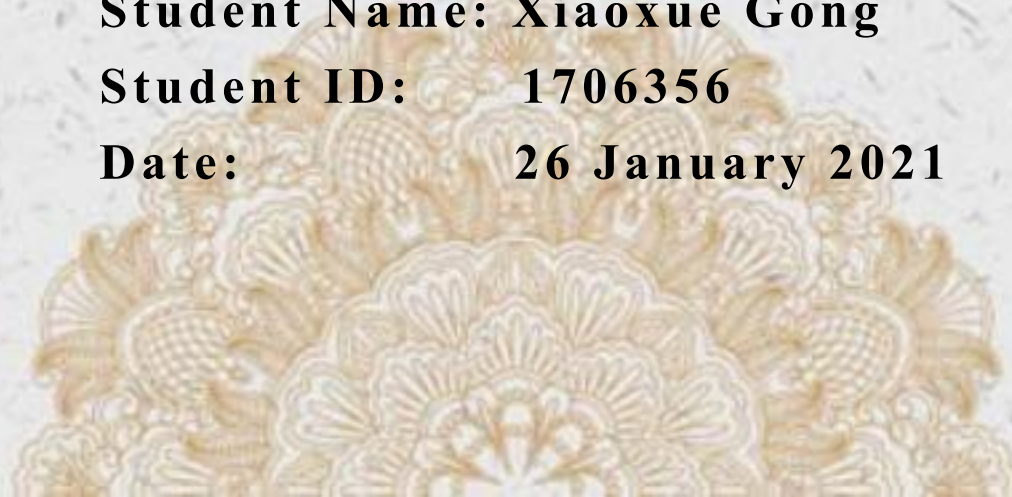
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Outline:

I Motivation

II The Original and Extended Meanings of *tai* 泰

III The Personal Understanding and Experience

IV Conclusion

**The superior man has *tai* but not
pride, the small man is proud but
not *tai***

「君子泰而不驕，小人驕而不泰。」





The meaning of *tai* is sliding, Cong Gong and Shui,
Da Sheng 從𢦏水, 大聲.

——Xu Shen 許慎

Tai consists of two characters — 𢦏 and 水, which
means water in hands slides easily.

——Duan Yucai 段玉裁

Tai泰: Sliding滑 ↓

Barrier-free 通

Free or Ease 縱泰

Comfortable 舒適

A country is prosperous the people live in peace

國泰民安

Take things calmly 處之泰然

Physical and mental relaxation 心多體泰

Self-indulgent and luxurious 泰侈

Big大 ➡ Biggest 大之極也 ↓

Sky and heaven 天: *Taiyuan*泰元

Five emperors五帝: *Wutai*五泰



The gentleman is at ease, they look like arrogant but it is not really; small people have scruple but actually arrogant.

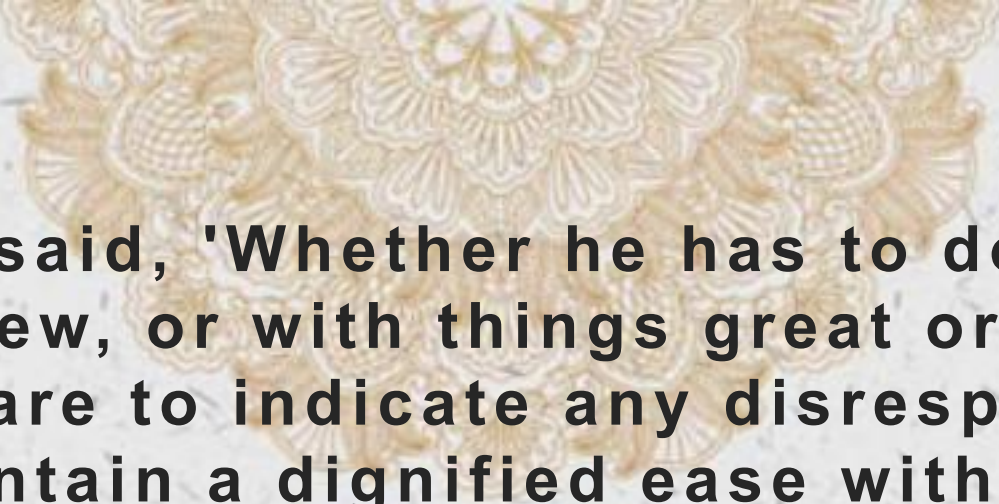
——He Yan 何晏

The character *zong* 縱 in the Chinese phrase *zongtai* 縱泰 has the sense of easiness (*shuhuan* 舒緩) and self-indulgence (*fangzong* 放縱). In other words, it is without restraint.

——Li Bingnan 李炳南

***Tai* means magnanimity度量寬宏, broad-minded胸襟開闊, openhearted or clear and bright光明爽朗. A superior man is at ease without pride; the small man is not only proud but also self-contemptuous, therefore, they always feel upset and distracted.**

——Nan Huaijin 南懷瑾



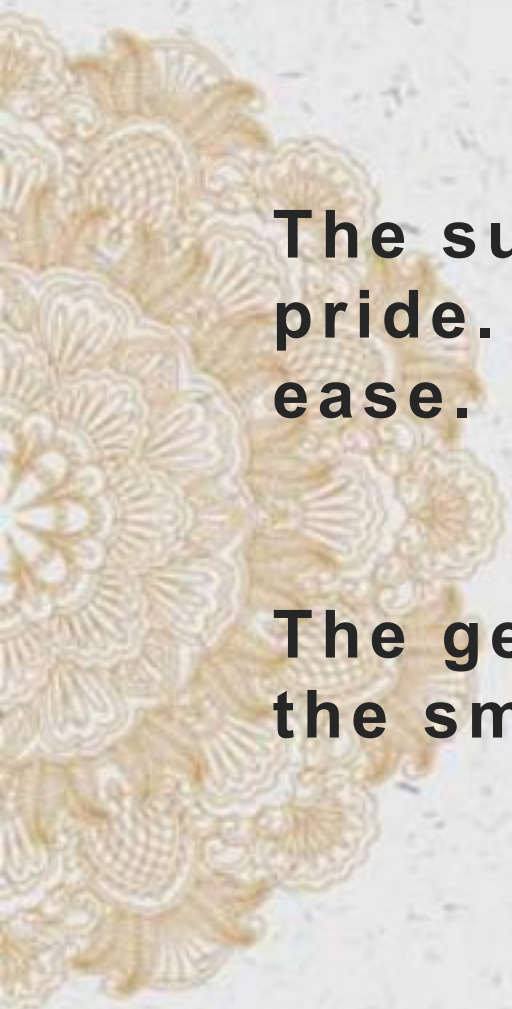
Confucius said, 'Whether he has to do with many people or few, or with things great or small, he does not dare to indicate any disrespect - is not this to maintain a dignified ease without any pride.'

——James Legge

The gentleman never dare neglect his manners whether he be dealing with the many or the few, the young or the old. Is this not being casual without being arrogant.

——D.C. Lau

「子曰：君子無眾寡，無小大，無敢慢，斯不亦泰而不驕乎？」



The superior man has a dignified ease without pride. The mean man has pride without a dignified ease.

——James Legge

The gentleman is at ease without being arrogant; the small man is arrogant without being at ease.

——D. C. Lau

「君子泰而不驕，小人驕而不泰。」

Phenomenon:

pride and inferiority

Reason:

be swayed by considerations of gain and loss

(患得患失)





Amazing! Amazing! All beings have the wisdom and virtues of a Buddha but cannot attain them due to their wandering thoughts and attachments.

——Sakyamuni Buddha



Thank you