



(to be completed by marker)

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<i>Module Code: SICH 4001</i>	<i>Student number: 1804386</i>
<i>Module title: Don't insult people, don't make jokes to people.</i>	
<i>For completion by marker:</i> <i>Comments:</i>	
<i>Marker's signature:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
<i>Provisional mark:</i> NB. <i>All marks are provisional until confirmed by the final examination board.</i>	

English Oral Presentation

Good afternoon Respected Provost, good morning, Miss. Deng, and Mr. Zhang!

Today, I am going to share with you an excerpt, relating to the principle of "Don't insult people, don't make jokes to people.", selected from the book *the Notes of Chang Li Ju Yao*.

The content to be shared is mainly divided into three parts: the introduction, the explanation of Mr. Xu Xingmin as well as the Ms. Li Yue, and the personal feelings and reflection.

First of all, what I need to introduce in the preface is that when people interact with others in daily life, everyone needs to express their thoughts and meanings through words. In addition, when we get along with each other in harmony, we will be active through some relaxed words. However, we tend to ignore the trouble and distress that sometimes improper speech causes to others and ourselves, so I want to share this sentence to everyone for avoiding this sort of things.

For this sentence, Mr.Xu once said:

It is not good to insult people. No matter who has high or low status, even a beggar, if you insult him, he can't stand it. There is a story in "*The Classic of Rites: Tan Gong* II ¹". During the famine in Qi country, a person, Qian Ao, prepared food to help the victims on the roadside. A hungry man came along. Qian Ao brought the meal with his left hand and the soup with his right hand shouting "Come here! Getting

¹ Dai Sheng 戴聖: *The Classic of Rites on Music* 《禮記》 <<https://ctext.org/liji/tan-gong-ii/zhs>> [Accessed 11 November 2021].

food!" This person starved to death because he refused to accept it. Everyone here knows it. In fact, even if you give someone delicious food, but the other person thinks that you are insulting him, he will not be willing to eat your meal and not eat the insulting food. Even if he died after walking a few steps, he would not eat, he refused the insult. There are many examples in history. Someone was insulted and then retaliated against more seriously. why? Confucianism believes: "A person would rather be killed than be insulted." It is acceptable for you to kill them. Insulting people is unacceptable. This is very serious. Therefore, let us not insult others.

In modern democratic countries, during the process of fighting in those country, you can capture the enemy's commanders and soldiers. You can punish them as you wish, but you can't insult them. When you are eager to insult others, you don't know when the other party will hold grudges in their heart. Suffering insult will lead to a great humiliation for an ambitious person, which is the most unbearable in his life. The kind of revenge he will do when he has the opportunity in the future will make you unbearable. So don't joke casually to others. Sometimes jokes are not allowed. This is related to insults. For example, it might be harmless to joke with someone with a sense of humor, and it doesn't matter. But when you think that you are joking with a person who is usually serious and has no sense of humor, he may think that you are insulting him and he cannot bear it, and even he forms resentment. This is a common situation in society.

Sometimes we tell a joke to create a happy atmosphere for each other, but the other party does not think so, causing his misunderstanding, so why bother? It's not worth it, so don't joke casually. In the face of a serious person, no matter what position he is in, you should be careful when you speak and don't just make jokes. And no matter who it is, if there are too many jokes, the person will become very frivolous. We must pay attention to maintaining a solemn attitude when we study. In *The Analects of Confucius*, Master Confucius said: " Very few go

astray who comport themselves with restraint.²" In short, no matter what the occasion, it is better to be more solemn, but not to be frivolous. The frivolous people can't do important things. No matter what matters is at a critical juncture, only people with a stable personality are worth relying on. For a dignified person, at any time he will abide by every promise he makes, and will do everything he is responsible for. Such people are not impetuous. Sometimes it is inevitable to make jokes in order to ease the atmosphere, but you should pay special attention to it.

In addition, Teacher Li once said:

People should pay special attention when doing good deeds, because people tend to become particularly aggressive at this time. People will be proud of what they have done and think "I have done a lot for you, so I will make some demands that you will have to do and satisfy for me." Here is another example. As for an entrepreneur, he bought a house for his parents, helped his brothers and sisters, and donated the money, but he did not have respect them. He felt that he was very credited and believe that those people have to do things for me. He even thinks What qualifications do they have to say? I have the right to do everything in the family. What contribution can they make? On the contrary, the people who received his favor are full of resentment. From the bottom of their hearts, they don't want to be grateful. They still think: "I will give it back to you as soon as I have money. I won't endure your anger!" Therefore, the intention to do good is the most important thing. Our goal cannot be for fame and gain, let alone the kind of mentality that "we have the ability, we must be superior".

In addition, we must not be arrogant and oppress others, which are bad attitudes. These are things that have played a warning role, let us not insult people and don't make jokes at will in our lives. *Guidelines of Being a Good Person* also mentioned: "People should avoid and don't say those hypocritical or vulgar words." We must not use these bad words to insult people, nor use coarse words to communicate,

² Edward Slingerland, *Confucius Analects*, (Hackett Publishing Company),Page37

and be especially cautious. We should not develop in the direction of vulgarity and low-level taste. We must continue to cultivate the demeanor and personality like a gentleman.

Finally, regarding this sentence, I will report my feelings here. I deeply feel that while talking, in any case, we must have respect for people. As the saying goes, "He who loves others is constantly loved by them. He who respects others is constantly respected by them."³

Only when we express our sincerity in the nuances of the words, others will accept our words and communicate without any barrier. In the *Analects of Confucius*, it was recorded: "Words are faithful and honest, and behaviors are respectful. Even in the country of barbarism, we can influence people. Words are not faithful and honest, and behaviors are not sincere as well as respectful. We could not influence people even in your own country."

I once had a similar experience. One day in the process of playing with classmates, I thought that the relationship between classmates was very good and could joke at will, so I joked that he used to be the weakest person in the class, but now he is an excellent runner and like a cork bobbing up again. Just after I said this, he became furious. He felt that I easily denied his previous efforts to exercise and thought I was humiliating him, so he was very unhappy to refute me, which also made the originally very happy atmosphere very embarrassing. At that time, I knew that my behavior was unreasonable and immoral. After that, I approached this classmate and apologized to him, expressing my guilt, and it took a few days to get his forgiveness. Through this incident, I really reflected that there should be no contempt or disrespect in the conversations and interactions with people. If you do this, the other person will definitely be able to feel it.

If people speak without being polite, they will certainly not be

³ Mencius 孟軻: *Meng Zi* 《孟子》 <<https://ctext.org/mengzi/li-lou-ii/zhs?en=on>> [Accessed 11 November 2021].

respected by others. This is also not accepted and recognized by gentlemen. Therefore, a gentleman is often cautious about his words and actions, and treats others with respect at all times, and the words spoken are in line with the standards of etiquette. Finally, I will quote a sentence from "*The Doctrine of the Mean*" as a summary of this report. The content is: "Therefore, the actions of a gentleman can express the way of heaven for later generations, his behavior can be the law of later generations, and the words spoken can become the rule of later generations. "

That is all for my presentation today. Any feedback and suggestions will be appreciated. Thank you for your listening.

Bibliography

1. Dai Sheng 戴聖: *The Classic of Rites on Music* 《禮記》 <<https://ctext.org/liji/tan-gong-ii/zhs>> [Accessed 11 November 2021].
2. Edward Slingerland, *Confucius Analects*, (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2003)
3. Mencius 孟軻: *Meng Zi* 《孟子》 <<https://ctext.org/mengzi/li-lou-ii/zhs?en=on>> [Accessed 11 November 2021].