



Undergraduate assignment feedback form
(to be completed by marker)

<i>Student Name: Yichun Wang</i>	
<i>Module Code: SICH3009</i>	<i>Student number: 2503135</i>
<i>Module title: An Introduction to The Classic of Family Reverence</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>	

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.

☐ I have used AI in my assignment

I acknowledge the use of [AI Tool 1] [(AI Tool 1 url)] on [Date] to [Purpose my work: (e.g. support my research/proofread/edit photographic material etc.)]. I used the prompt(s):

1. [Prompt]
2. [Prompt]
3. [Prompt]

I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated text as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used before, and after the use of AI tools which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

(Delete or continue list as required)

I acknowledge the use of [AI Tool 2] [(AI Tool 2 url)] on [Date] to [Purpose my work (e.g. support my research/proofread/edit photographic material etc.)]. I used the prompt(s):

1. [Prompt]
2. [Prompt]
3. [Prompt]

I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated text as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used before, and after the use of AI tools which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

Where family reverence begins

Hello everyone, I'm so honored to be here by giving you this presentation. Today we will be looking at the topic of "where family reverence begins", and it's divided into two parts: in part one we're going to investigate why serving one's parents should be the beginning of family reverence, while part two focuses on how serving one's parents begins.

To begin with, let me give a brief introduction to family reverence. Family reverence is the root of virtue and Chinese traditional culture. The other items of the 12 virtues here you can see on the screen: fraternity, loyalty, trust, propriety, righteousness, thrift, integrity, benevolence, love, harmony and peace, all extent from their origin, family reverence. Which leads us to the question: what is the origin of family reverence itself?

We have been studying the Chinese Classic of Family Reverence in the past few weeks and in chapter one it says, "this family reverence, then, begins in service to your parents, continues in service to your lord, and culminates in distinguishing yourself in the world." Showing the three stages of family reverence and where stage one has decisive influence on the other two. With disobedient to one's parents one can no longer be serving genuine to their lord, therefore not at all being able to distinguish oneself in the world. But why?

Xing Bing said so in his exegesis for the Chinese scripture Xiaojing: "孝者，事親之名", meaning that family reverence is the name of serving one's parents. Accordingly, in the past few lines of the Chinese Classic of Family Reverence explained: "distinguishing yourself and walking the proper way (*dao*) in the world; raising your name high for posterity and thereby bringing esteem to your father and mother...". Indeed, one of the most important reasons for raising our name high is for people to respect our parents eventually.

Likewise, Lin Zexu also mentioned: "不孝父母，奉神無益", meaning impiety in serving one's parents make it worthless to worshiping the gods. Parents are just like gods right in front of us, if people, anyone, don't even love and serve their parents with all their heart, who else can they really love and be sincere to? And I believe it's a question worth pondering.

With that question in mind, let's push on to the next question, how to start serving our parents? For me, it's quite a difficult process cause my family is relatively well-off. My parents often take me and my brother and sister to travel around different cities and countries, so I always have the feeling that it's just supposed to be like this. I deserve their money and time. But then I grew up and finally understood them, mom and dad just wanted their children to live happier. They loved us so much and after I understand I know I'm not supposed to think this way, I need to change my mind and attitudes. But how? When we look back to the ancient sages, for example Zengzi. People emulate the way he perfectly fulfills his father's wishes. We may not be perfect at once but still can achieve the basic demands parents ask us to do like drink water or keep early hours...But I'm not speaking with ease, definitely, because I know I can't do all of this and that's also why, let's say if someone asks me, "what does your mom often say to you?" the answer is not necessary to think. Because the repeated chatter is with deep impression in my mind as I never answer them right away. So, on the contrary if we can't remind ourselves of something each of your parents often repeat saying, it might be a sign that you're really taking good responsibility for yourself, so there's no need for them to urge

you to do things.

Apparently, parents are paying such great attention to their child's physical health. The Chinese Classic of Family Reverence therefore teaches us: "Our physical person with its hair and skin are received from your parents, vigilance in not allowing anything to do injury to your person is where family reverence begins."

By taking good care of ourselves, whom our parents cherish most and keeping their worries close to heart, we can then genuinely care for our parents, we'll not feel stressed or exhausted or reluctant when doing things for them, which is completely different from putting a show of respect unnaturally, just because the classics said so.

Consequently, as we learn and practice deeper into family reverence, we may achieve consummate serving and love to our parents. Taking the Guidelines for Being a Good Person for example, how does our respect for our parents show up in daily life? Simply it says, "When our parents call us, we should answer them right away."

"When they tell us to do something, we should do it promptly." In my case, my mom will need to ask me several times to do something until I really get up to do it. And during the process of modifying behavior these years I do realize, "A good beginning is half done."

Next, "When our parents instruct us, we should listen respectfully. When they scold us, we should sincerely accept what they say." Keep calm, I always told myself, especially in adversity. And this harmony should begin with our parents, too. If we take another line as an example, "When we see the goodness of others, we should encourage ourselves to learn from them." Who to learn from initially? Our parents. Just like the homework we handed in lately we wrote about our parents' virtues before we seek merits from anyone else. So, it's all quite the same thing... Let's think about another one. Maybe "恕道", which means to be tolerant. But first we need to learn to tolerate our parents before we can truly tolerate others. The Chinese Classic of Family Reverence therefore says, "It is for this reason that to love others while not loving one's parents is depravity". Thus, how can one distinguish oneself in the world and serve one's lord if they can't even serve their parents.

To wrap up, as written in the classic, "it is family reverence (*xiao*) that is the root of excellence, and whence education (*jiao*) itself is born". Family reverence is the root and foundation of Chinese Traditional Culture. And our respect towards our parents is where we began to be filial towards everyone and everything else.

To quote the Chinese Classic of Family Reverence, "With love and respect being fully expressed in this service to parents", of course, the service does not limit to my shallow insights shared above. If we learn deeper into the Guidelines for Being a Good Person or any other classics, we will find out how precise it is to consummately express family reverence. Today we learned that the beginning of family reverence is to be vigilant to care for our physical person. As for fulfillment, Zhuang zi once said, "事其親者，不擇地而安之", meaning one will reassure one's parents no matter where he or she is. We start with the basics and keep improving until we reach the goal of fully expressing family reverence.

And that concludes my presentation, thank you all for listening. This is my reference list so you can have a look at it.

I'm looking forward to your feedback and discussion afterwards. Thank you.