



Refuse to be Selfishness and Put Ourselves in Others' Shoes



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Outline:



1. Bad influences of selfishness
2. The way to avoid selfishness
3. Being considerate by using wisdom
4. Summary





▪ Introduction

Part 1:

1. Bad influences of selfishness



Mencius went to see King Hui of Liang. Who said, 'Venerable sir, since you have made light of the distance of a thousand li, you may have some way to profit my state, mayn't you?' Mencius answered, 'Why should Your Majesty have mentioned the word "profit" ? What counts is benevolence and righteousness. If Your Majesty says, "How can I profit my state?" the high officials will say, "How can we profit our fiefs?" and the intellectuals and the commoners will say, "How can we profit ourselves?" If those above and those below strive to snatch profit one from the other, the state will be endangered.'

(孟子見梁惠王。王曰：“叟不遠千里而來，亦將有以利吾國乎？”...上下交征利而國危亦。)

—— *Mencius*, Chapter I



Benevolence &
Righteousness

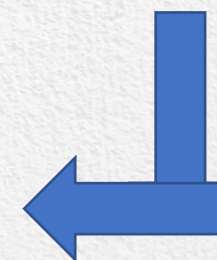


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Profit



Perish

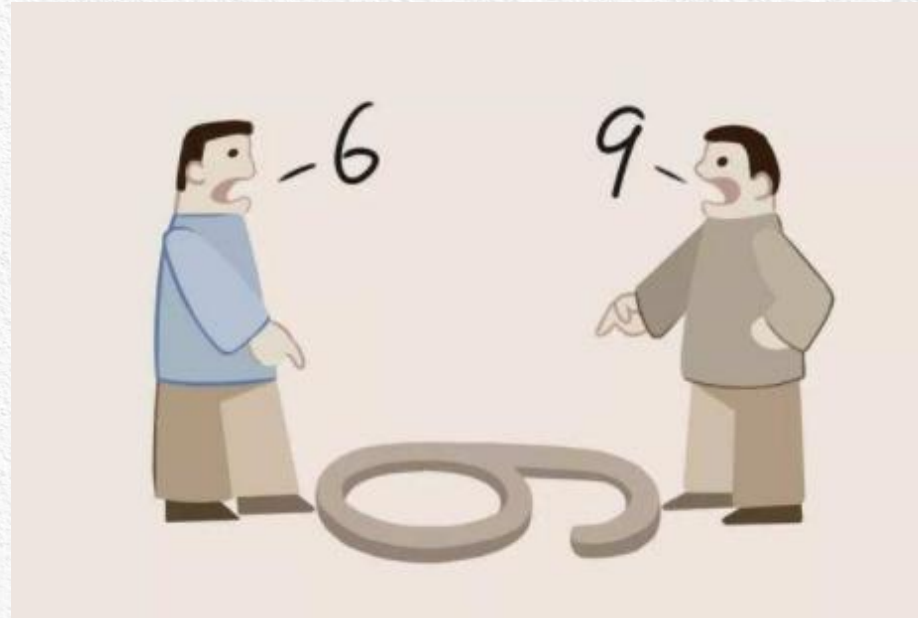


Part 2:

2. The way to avoid selfishness



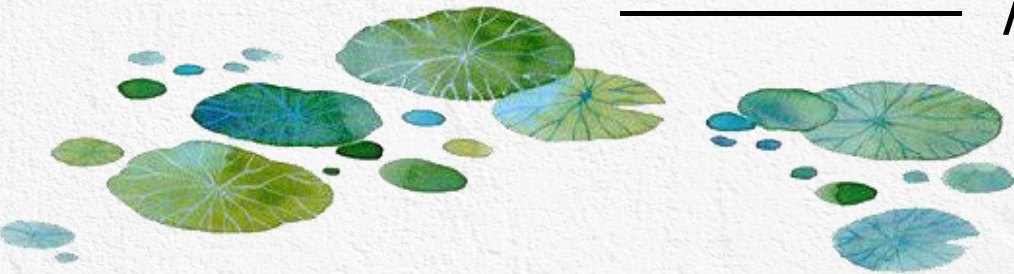
Put Ourselves in Others' Shoes



A disciple of Confucius enquired: 'Is There one word which may guide one in practice throughout the whole life ?' Confucius answered, 'The word "charity" is perhaps the word. What you do not wish others to do unto you, do not do unto them.'

(子貢問曰：“有一言而可以終身行之者乎？”子曰：“其恕乎！己所不欲勿施於人。 ”)

———— *The Analects of Confucius,*
Chapter XV

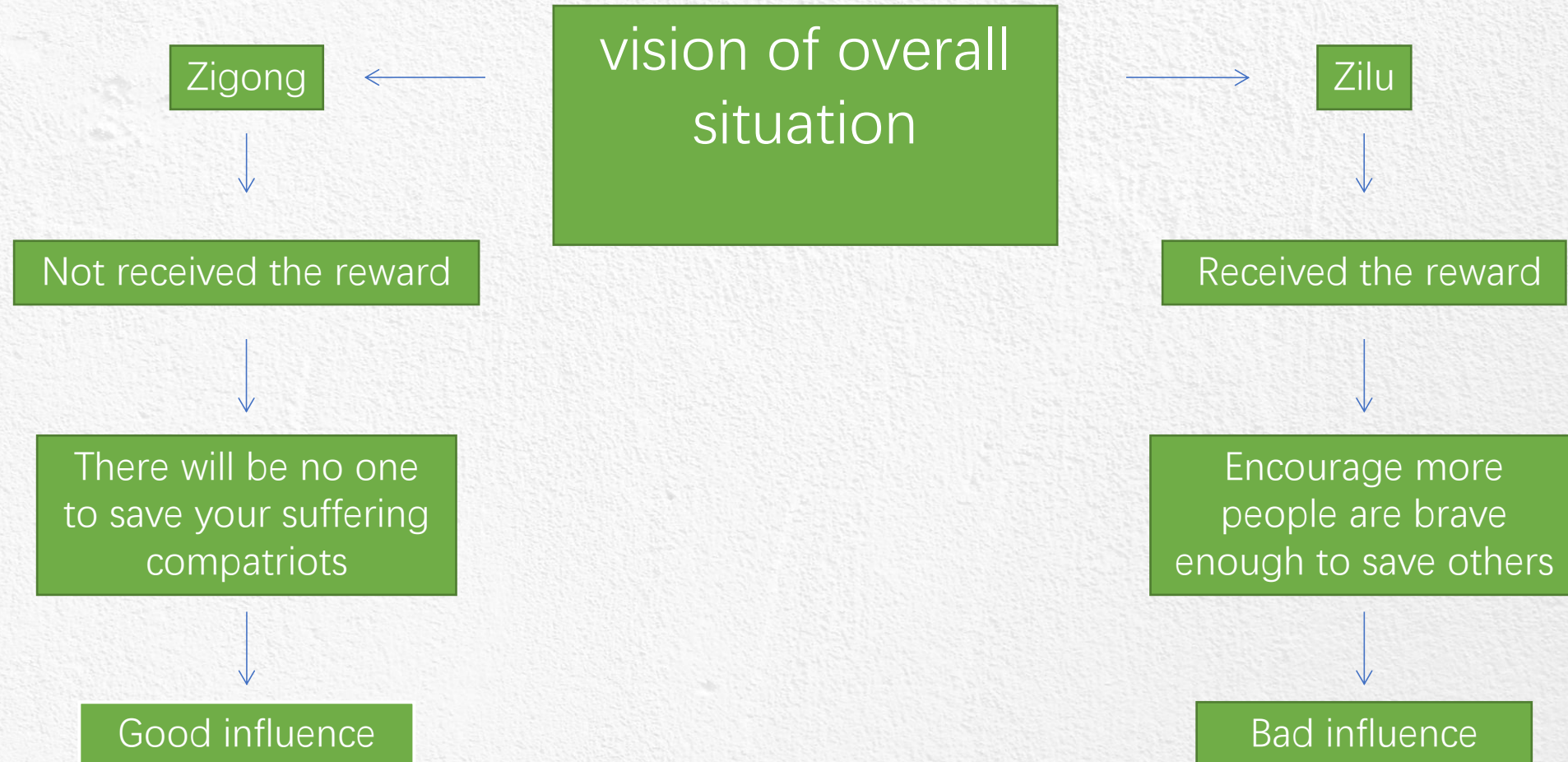




Part 3:

3. Being considerate by using wisdom

Little story: Zi Lu received the cattle and Zi Gong does not accept golds





From this, we can see that those who practice good deeds must not only consider the current outcome but that of the future as well. Neither should we only consider our own gain and loss but think about the impact made on others.

(不論現行而論流弊，不論一事而論久遠，不論一身而論天下。)

—— *A Commentary on Liaofan's Four Lesson*

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Thank you
for listening!

