



The Analects of Confucius

by Confucius
(Translated by Arthur Waley)

Vintage © 1989
256 pages

The Big Ideas

Let There Be No Evil

In your thoughts.

Recognizing Merit

See it in others!

Practicing

What you preach.

What Needs Doing?

Get on it!

I Can Always Be Certain

Of learning.

Seeing Our Own Faults

Can you?

Hamlets

And love of learning.

50 Years of Study

That should do it.

Making a Mound

Keep making progress!

Purpose:

Your commanding officer.

The Way of the Master

Let's do our best.

“For those who approve but do not carry out, who are stirred, but do not change, I can do nothing at all.” ~ Confucius from *The Analects of Confucius*

The Analects of Confucius.

We're going old school on this one. Believed to be rockin' it in the 5th/6th century BCE (around the same time as Lao Tzu and Buddha), Confucius was super passionate about learning and developing himself into the best person he could be according to the dictates of his classic society.

The book can get a little funny as Confucius goes into some detail on how to live properly according to ancient Chinese customs (wear the black silk! :) but it's still got a lot of great gems.

I think you'll appreciate the mining I've done for us and trust you'll enjoy this quick tour of the classic book!

■ Let There Be No Evil In Your Thoughts

“The Master said, If out of the three hundred songs I had to take one phrase to cover all my teachings, I would say ‘Let there be no evil in your thoughts.’”

Nice. As it turns out (and as you know if you've read many of these Notes), this theme is echoed across the literature.

The first words of one of the core texts of Buddhism, *The Dhammapada* (see Notes), tells us the same thing: “*Our life is shaped by our mind; we become what we think.*”

Marcus Aurelius (see Notes on *Meditations*) advises us to watch how we're soaking our mind: “*Your mind will be like its habitual thoughts; for the soul becomes dyed with the color of its thoughts. Soak it then in such trains of thoughts as, for example: Where life is possible at all, a right life is possible.*”

Shakespeare tells us that nothing is good or bad, but thinking makes it so and Wayne Dyer tells us that when we change the way we look at things, the things we look at change.

So, how's your mind? Are you letting “evil thoughts” cruise around in there unchecked? Time to work on cleaning those gremlins out? :)