

The Ordinary Center 中庸

(or *The Doctrine of the Mean*)

天命之謂性。率性之謂道。修道之謂教。

The mandate of the sky is called nature. That which informs nature is called the way. Cultivating the way is called education.

道也者、不可須臾離也、可離非道也。

The way is something that is not possible to part from. If it could be parted from then it would not be the way.

是故君子戒慎乎其所不睹、恐懼乎其所不聞。

Thus the Master's Child is cautious and careful about what cannot be perceived and apprehensive and tentative about what cannot be heard.

莫見乎隱、莫顯乎微。故君子慎其獨也。

What is hidden is not something that can be seen and what is profound is not something that is obvious. Thus the Master's Child is very careful when alone.

喜、怒、哀、樂之未發、謂之中。發而皆中節、謂之和。中也者、天下之大本也。和也者、天下之達道也。

The place where desire, anger, sorrow and joy have not yet expressed is called "the center." When all parts are expressing equally and evenly it is called "harmony." The center is the great root of the world. To reach harmony is to achieve the way of the world.

致中和、天地位焉、萬物育焉。

Bring about balance and harmony and the sky and the earth will take their places and the ten-thousand things will naturally develop on their own.