



## Confucianism Quotes

The debatable issue for this project is:

**By which ancient Chinese philosophy should people today be more influenced, Confucianism or Daoism?**

These quotations highlight some of the beliefs of Confucianism and are mostly attributed to the *Analects* of Confucius (551 – 479 BCE).

1. “Everything has its beauty but not everyone sees it.” – **Confucius**
2. “Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself.” – **Confucius**
3. “Ignorance is the night of the mind, but a night without moon and star.” – **Confucius**
4. “Real knowledge is to know the extent of one’s ignorance.” – **Confucius**
5. “It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop.” – **Confucius**
6. “I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.” – **Confucius**
7. “Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in getting up every time we do.” – **Confucius**
8. “Wheresoever you go, go with all your heart.” – **Confucius**
9. “What the superior man seeks is in himself; what the small man seeks is in others.” – **Confucius**
10. “He who learns but does not think, is lost. He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger.” – **Confucius**
11. “They must often change who would be constant in happiness or wisdom.” – **Confucius**
12. “Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life.” – **Confucius**
13. “I am not one who was born in the possession of knowledge; I am one who is fond of antiquity, and earnest in seeking it there.” – **Confucius**
14. “He that would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools.” – **Confucius**
15. “If a man takes no thought about what is distant, he will find sorrow near at hand.” – **Confucius**

16. “There is the love of knowing without the love of learning; the beclouding here leads to dissipation of mind.” – **Confucius**
17. “If you look into your own heart, and you find nothing wrong there, what is there to worry about? What is there to fear?” – **Confucius**
18. “Recompense injury with justice, and recompense kindness with kindness.” – **Confucius**
19. “By three methods we may learn wisdom: first, by reflection which is noblest; second, by imitation, which is the easiest; and third, by experience, which is the bitterest.” – **Confucius**
20. “The cautious seldom err.” – **Confucius**
21. “To know what you know and what you do not know, that is true knowledge.” – **Confucius**
22. “A man who has committed a mistake and doesn’t correct it is committing another mistake.” – **Confucius**
23. “In a country well governed poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed wealth is something to be ashamed of.” – **Confucius**
24. “The superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.” – **Confucius**
25. “He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own.” – **Confucius**
26. “It is man that makes truth great, not truth that makes man great.” – **Confucius**
27. “Virtue is not left to stand alone. He who practices it will have neighbors.” – **Confucius**
28. “The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.” – **Confucius**
29. “What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.” – **Confucius**
30. “To see the right and not to do it is cowardice.” – **Confucius**
31. “Forget injuries, never forget kindnesses.” – **Confucius**
32. “When you know a thing, to hold that you know it; and when you do not know a thing, to allow that you do not know it – this is knowledge.” – **Confucius**
33. “Wisdom, compassion, and courage are the three universally recognized moral qualities of men.” – **Confucius**
34. “Better a diamond with a flaw than a pebble without.” – **Confucius**
35. “The superior man understands what is right; the inferior man understands what will sell.” – **Confucius**
36. “With coarse rice to eat, with water to drink, and my bended arm for a pillow – I have still joy in the midst of these things. Riches and honors acquired by unrighteousness are to me as a floating cloud.” – **Confucius**
37. “The first woman was created from the rib of a man. She was not made from his head to top him nor from his feet to be trampled on by him, but out of his side to be equal to him.” – **Confucius**
38. “To go beyond is as wrong as to fall short.” – **Confucius**
39. “The essence of knowledge is, having it, to apply it; not having it, to confess your ignorance.” – **Confucius**
40. “When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don’t adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.” – **Confucius**
41. “An oppressive government is more to be feared than a tiger.” – **Confucius**
42. “Wherever you go, go with all your heart.” – **Confucius**
43. “Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure.” – **Confucius**

44. “Silence is a true friend who never betrays.” – **Confucius**
45. “It is easy to hate and it is difficult to love. This is how the whole scheme of things works. All good things are difficult to achieve; and bad things are very easy to get.” – **Confucius**
46. “You cannot open a book without learning something.” – **Confucius**
47. “When prosperity comes, do not use all of it.” – **Confucius**
48. “People with virtue must speak out; People who speak are not all virtuous.” – **Confucius**
49. “Questions are the creative acts of intelligence” – **Confucius**
50. “To see and listen to the wicked is already the beginning of wickedness.” – **Confucius**
51. “Worry not that no one knows of you; seek to be worth knowing.” – **Confucius**
52. “Don’t be concerned others not appreciating you. Be concerned about your not appreciating others.” – **Confucius**
53. “When anger rises, think of the consequences.” – **Confucius**
54. “Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.” – **Confucius**
55. “If I am walking with two other men, each of them will serve as my teacher. I will pick out the good points of the one and imitate them, and the bad points of the other and correct them in myself.” – **Confucius**