

FINE ARTS ACTIVITY: HANDOUT C

The Sayings of Confucius

“Do not do unto others that which you do not wish them to do unto you.”

“Listening to music brings harmony to the mind. Right conduct brings harmony of existence.”

“Archery shows us how to find the Path. When an archer misses his aim, he blames no one but looks for the fault in himself.”

“Learn as if you could never have enough of learning, as if you might miss something.”

“A state needs three things: sufficient food, sufficient military equipment, and the confidence of the people in their government.” A student asked, “If you had to eliminate one, which would you give up first?” The master replied, “Military equipment.” The student asked, “And next?” Confucius replied, “Food. Because everyone must die, and life is not worth much unless people have confidence in their government.”

“Your parents gave you bodies, hair, and skin, every bit of you. Take care of them.”

“The superior man thinks of what is right; the small man thinks of what is profitable.”

“The superior man is watchful of these things: his eyes, so that he may observe; his ears, that he may learn; his face, that it may reflect kindness always; his manners, that they might show respect for others; his words, that they may be true; his business dealings, that they may be fair; his doubts, that he may resolve them; his emotions, that he may control them; his money, that he may earn it honestly.”

“Be considerate of your elders, open-hearted with friends, and treat the young ones tenderly.”

“When people are educated, the distinction between classes disappears.”

“The educational and transforming power of manners is most subtle. They check depravity before it has taken form. They cause a man daily to tend toward the good and keep him from wrongdoing without his even being conscious of it. That is why the ancient kings valued manners so highly.”