

GOVERNMENT BY FILIAL PIETY

The Master said, "Formerly the illustrious kings brought order to the world through filial piety. They did not dare neglect the ministers of small states—not to mention their own dukes, marquises, earls, counts, and barons. Therefore they gained the hearts of all the states and were able to serve their former kings. The rulers did not dare insult the widows and widowers—not to mention the upper class or the common people. Therefore they gained the hearts of all the people and were able to serve their former rulers. The heads of families did not dare mistreat their servants and concubines—not to mention their wives and children. Therefore they gained their hearts and were able to serve their parents. Accordingly, while living, parents were well taken care of; after their death, their ghosts received sacrifices. In this way the world was kept in peace and harmony. Calamities did not occur nor was disorder created. Such was the way the former illustrious kings brought order to the world through filial piety."