

Mencius Quotes

*Men, Mind, Heart, Heaven, People, Water, Children, Way, Evil, Hands,
Feelings, Exercise, Friendship, Compassion, Lying, Two, Thinking, Humanity,
Knowing, Able*

Friendship is one mind in two bodies.

~Mencius

The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart.

~Mencius

Try your best to treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself, and you will find that this is the shortest way to benevolence

~Mencius

The disease of men is that they neglect their own fields and go to weed the fields of others.

~Mencius

To act without clear understanding, to form habits without investigation, to follow a path all one's life without knowing where it really leads; such is the behavior of the multitude.

~Mencius

There is no greater delight than to be conscious of sincerity on self-examination.

~Mencius

The best things in life come in threes, like friends, dreams, and memories.

~Mencius

Sincerity is the way to heaven.

~Mencius

People are eager to comment on something when they themselves are not in the situation of doing it.

~Mencius

He who loves others is constantly loved by them. He who respects others is constantly respected by them.

~Mencius

There is a power in everything; it is the job of the artist to determine it and express it.

~Mencius

The feeling of compassion is the beginning of humanity.

~Mencius

Never has a man who has bent himself been able to make others straight.

~Mencius

If you let people follow their feelings, they will be able to do good. This is what is meant by saying that human nature is good.

~Mencius

One who believes all of a book would be better off without books

~Mencius

So I like life and I like righteousness; if I cannot keep the two together, I will let life go and choose righteousness.

~Mencius

If the King loves music, it is well with the land.

~Mencius

Only when someone refuses to do certain things will he be capable of doing great things.

~Mencius

The feeling of right or wrong is the beginning of wisdom.

~Mencius

Never lose your child's heart.

~Mencius

The sole concern of learning is to seek one's original heart.

~Mencius

Evil exists to glorify the good. Evil is negative good. It is a relative term. Evil can be transmuted into good. What is evil to one at one time, becomes good at another time to somebody else.

~Mencius

Where it is permissible both to die and not to die, it is an abuse of valour to die.

~Mencius

I dislike death, however, there are some things I dislike more than death. Therefore, there are times when I will not avoid danger.

~Mencius

Sincerity is the way to heaven; to think how to be sincere is the way of man.

~Mencius

He who exerts his mind to the utmost knows his nature.

~Mencius

Only those who develop their minds and spirits to the utmost can serve Heaven and fulfill their own destinies.

~Mencius

The way of truth is like a great highway. It is not hard to find.

~Mencius

When Heaven is about to confer a great office upon you, it first exercises your mind with suffering and your sinews and bones with toil.

~Mencius

The great person never loses a childlike spirit.

~Mencius

A man must first despise himself, and then others will despise him.

~Mencius

A great man is one who has not lost the child's heart.

~Mencius

He who goes to the bottom of his own heart knows his own nature;
And knowing his own nature, he knows heaven.

~Mencius

He who attends to his greater self becomes a great man, and he who attends to his smaller self becomes a small man.

~Mencius

The gap between enthusiasm and indifference is filled with failures. The great man is he that does not lose his child's heart.

~Mencius

Truth uttered before its time is dangerous.

~Mencius

Friends are the siblings God never gave us.

~Mencius

In abundance prepare for scarcity.

~Mencius

A real man is he whose goodness is a part of himself.

~Mencius

It is not difficult to govern. All one has to do is not to offend the noble families.

~Mencius

He who wishes to be benevolent will not be rich.

~Mencius

Kindly words do not enter so deeply into men as a reputation for kindness.

~Mencius

Secure property in hand leads to peace in mind.

~Mencius

He who loves others is always loved by them, and he who respects others is always respected by them.

~Mencius

Benevolence is one of the distinguishing characters of man.

~Mencius

Listen to a man's words and look at the pupil of his eye. How can a man conceal his character?

~Mencius

The Tao is near and people seek it far away.

~Mencius

Friendship with a man is friendship with his virtue, and does not admit of assumptions of superiority.

~Mencius

The Way lies at hand yet it is sought afar off; the thing lies in the easy yet it is sought in the difficult.

~Mencius

A small country cannot contend with a great; the few cannot contend with the many; the weak cannot contend with the strong

~Mencius

Men must be decided on what they will not do, and then they are able to act with vigor in what they ought to do.

~Mencius

The foundation of the world lies in the nation. The foundation of the nation lies in the family. The foundation of the family lies in the individual.

~Mencius

The way is near, but men seek it afar. It is in easy things, but men seek for it in difficult things.

~Mencius

Heaven sees as the people see. Heaven hears as the people hear.

~Mencius

The man of true greatness never loses his child's heart.

~Mencius

When one by force subdues men, they do not submit to him in heart. They submit because their strength is not adequate to resist.

~Mencius

By exhaustively examining one's own mind, one may understand his nature. One who understands his own nature understands Heaven.

~Mencius

The ways are two: love and want of love. That is all.

~Mencius

The myriad things are complete in us. There is no greater joy than to reflect on ourselves and become sincere.

~Mencius

The way of truth is like a great road. It is not difficult to know it. The evil is only that men will not seek it.

~Mencius

The way of learning is none other than finding the lost mind.

~Mencius

Never has there been one possessed of complete sincerity who did not move others. Never has there been one who had not sincerity who was able to move others.

~Mencius

The root of the kingdom is in the state. The root of the state is in the family. The root of the family is in the person of its head.

~Mencius

Mankind fears an evil man but heaven does not.

~Mencius

All things are complete within ourselves.

~Mencius

The tendency of mans nature to good is like the tendency of water to flow downward.

~Mencius

Every duty is a charge, but the charge of oneself is the root of all

others.

~Mencius

The path of duty lies in what is near, and men seek for it in what is remote; the work of duty lies in what is easy, and men seek for it in what is difficult.

~Mencius

If the prince of a State love benevolence, he will have no opponent in all the empire.

~Mencius

Incessant falls teach men to reform, and distress rouses their strength. Life springs from calamity, and death from ease.

~Mencius

To feed men and not to love them is to treat them as if they were barnyard cattle. To love them and not respect them is to treat them as if they were household pets.

~Mencius

A man must not be without shame, for the shame of being without shame is shamelessness indeed.

~Mencius

The great man does not think beforehand of his words that they may be sincere, nor of his actions that they may be resolute- he simply speaks and does what is right.

~Mencius

Human nature is disposed to do good.

~Mencius

The way is One and only One. The way is close at hand, but men seek

it afar.

~Mencius

To lay hold of the mean without taking into account the occasion is like grasping one thing only.

~Mencius

Virtue alone is not sufficient for the exercise of government; laws alone cannot carry themselves into practice.

~Mencius

Human nature is good, just as water seeks low ground. There is no man who is not good, just as there is no water that does not flow downward.

~Mencius

The regular path of virtue is to be pursued without any bend, and from no view to emolument.

~Mencius

Is it only the mouth and belly which are injured by hunger and thirst? Men's minds are also injured by them.

~Mencius

Those who follow the part of themselves which is great are great men; those who follow the part which is little are little men.

~Mencius

If you know that a thing is unrighteous, then use all dispatch in putting an end to it--why wait till next year?

~Mencius

All people have the common desire to be elevated in honour, but all people have something still more elevated in themselves without

knowing it.

~Mencius

The people turn in allegiance to Humanity, as surely as water flows downward or as a wild animal takes cover in the wilderness.

~Mencius

The five kinds of grains are considered good plants, but if the grains are not ripe, they are worse than cockles. It is the same with regard to kindness, which must grow into maturity.

~Mencius

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- Men Quotes
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- Exercise Quotes
- Friendship Quotes
- Compassion Quotes
- Lying Quotes
- Two Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Humanity Quotes
- Knowing Quotes
- Able Quotes