

# Xunzi

## Quotes

*Men, Nature, People, Teacher, Evil, Two, Strong, Loyalty, Gentleman, Study, Order, Human Nature, Heaven, Sacrifice, Goodness, Knowing, Fundamentals, Said, Expression, Climbing*

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

~Xunzi

If the quickness of the mind and the fluency of the tongue are too punctilious and sharp, moderate them in your activity and rest.

~Xunzi

If there is no dull and determined effort, there will be no brilliant achievement.

~Xunzi

Music is a fantastic peacekeeper of the world, it is integral to harmony, and it is a required fundamental of human emotion.

~Xunzi

A person is born with feelings of envy and hate. If he gives way to them, they will lead him to violence and crime, and any sense of loyalty and good faith will be abandoned.

~Xunzi

Man's nature is evil; goodness is the result of conscious activity.

~Xunzi

Since the nature of people is bad, to become corrected they must be taught by teachers and to be orderly they must acquire ritual and moral principles.

~Xunzi

Human nature is evil, and goodness is caused by intentional activity.

~Xunzi

Pride and excess bring disaster for man.

~Xunzi

When people lack teachers, their tendencies are not corrected; when they do not have ritual and moral principles, then their lawlessness is not controlled.

~Xunzi

The person attempting to travel two roads at once will get nowhere.

~Xunzi

Human nature refers to what is in people but which they cannot study or work at achieving.

~Xunzi

Human nature is such that people are born with a love of profit. If they follow these inclinations, they will struggle and snatch from each other, and inclinations to defer or yield will die.

~Xunzi

You look upon the seasons with expectation and await them: why not seize the seasonal opportunities and exploit them?

~Xunzi

Mencius said that human nature is good. I disagree with that.

~Xunzi

I once tried thinking for an entire day, but I found it less valuable than one moment of study.

~Xunzi

Sacrifices are concerned with the feelings of devotion and longing.

~Xunzi

Those whose character is mean and vicious will rouse others to animosity against them.

~Xunzi

I once tried standing up on my toes to see far out in the distance, but I found that I could see much farther by climbing to a high place.

~Xunzi

The drum is surely the lord of music, is it not?

~Xunzi

In antiquity the sage kings recognized that men's nature is bad and that their tendencies were not being corrected and their lawlessness controlled.

~Xunzi

Sacrifice is a state of mind in which our thoughts turn with longing [toward Heaven, the Ancestors], It is the supreme expression of loyalty, love, and respect.

~Xunzi

If the blood humor is too strong and robust, calm it with balance and harmony.

~Xunzi

If knowledge and foresight are too penetrating and deep, unify them with ease and sincerity.

~Xunzi

The noble person uses things; the lesser man is used by things.

~Xunzi

When you concentrate on agriculture and industry and are frugal in expenditures, Heaven cannot impoverish your state.

~Xunzi

If the impulse to daring and bravery is too fierce and violent, stay it with guidance and instruction.

~Xunzi

If the gentleman has ability, he is magnanimous, generous, tolerant, and straightforward, through which he opens the way to instruct others.

~Xunzi

If what the heart approves conforms to proper patterns, then even if one's desires are many, what harm would they be to good order?

~Xunzi

Thus, anybody who follows this nature and gives way its states will be led into quarrels and conflicts, and go against the conventions and rules of society, and will end up a criminal.

~Xunzi

The rigid cause themselves to be broken; the pliable cause themselves to be bound.

~Xunzi

There are successful scholars, public-spirited scholars, upright scholars, cautious scholars, and those who are merely petty men.

~Xunzi

The coming of honor or disgrace must be a reflection of one's inner power.

~Xunzi

The nature of man is evil; what is good in him is artificial.

~Xunzi

If you wish to see the thousand years, look at today; if you wish to understand the millionfold, then look at the one or the two.

~Xunzi

Now it is human nature to want to eat to ones fill when hungry, to want to warm up when cold, to want to rest when tired. These all are a part of people's emotional nature.

~Xunzi

Whether the gentleman is capable or not, he is loved all the same; conversely the petty man is loathed all the same.

~Xunzi

Thus, that one can find no place to walk through the breadth of the earth is not because the earth is not tranquil but because the danger to every step of the traveler lies generally with words.

~Xunzi

They are done merely for ornament. ... the common people regard them as supernatural.

~Xunzi

Human nature is what Heaven supplies.

~Xunzi

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