

苛政猛於虎

《禮記 · 檀弓下》

孔子過泰山側，有婦人哭於墓而哀。夫子式而聽之，使子路問之，曰：「子之哭也，壹似重有憂者？」而曰：「然。昔者，吾舅死於虎，吾夫又死焉，今吾子又死焉。」夫子曰：「何為不去也？」曰：「無苛政。」夫子曰：「小子識之，苛政猛於虎也。」

A Harsh Government Is Worse Than a Tiger

< The Book of Rites >

Confucius was travelling past Mt. Tai when he saw a woman crying distressingly by a grave. The Master leant over the front rail of his carriage and listened. He then sent his disciple Zi Lu to go and enquire. Zi Lu said to the woman, "Madame, when I heard you crying so bitterly, I assumed you were in great distress." The woman said, "Yes, I am. Years ago, my father-in-law was killed by a tiger. So was my husband later. Now my son was killed in the same way." The Master asked, "Have you ever thought of migrating to other places to live?" "No, we haven't, because there is no harsh government here," replied the woman. The Master then turned to his disciples and said, "Bear in mind, young people. A harsh government is more to be feared than a tiger."