

## Ancient Chinese Philosophy

1. Read through the quotes below. They are broken up into three groups. Some are harder to understand than others, but with each one take a moment to think about whether the quote is true or not.

2. After reading all the sayings, choose which group you agree with the most. Circle the group number.

3. Answer one, some or all of the following questions on a loose leaf sheet of paper. Your response should be in complete sentences and at least a half of page.

*Which group of sayings do you connect with and agree with the most? Why? Choose 2 of the sayings from the group you chose to circle- how do they apply to your life? Give examples.*

### Group #1

- ~Everything has its beauty but not everyone sees it.
- ~The superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.
- ~What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.
- ~When you know a thing, to hold that you know it; and when you do not know a thing, to allow that you do not know it – this is knowledge.
- ~Ask yourself constantly, "What is the right thing to do?"
- ~When anger rises, think of the consequences.
- ~Choose a job that you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.
- ~To put the world right in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must first put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must first cultivate our personal life; we must first set our hearts right.

### Group #2

- ~Love is of all passions the strongest, for it attacks simultaneously the head, the heart and the senses.
- ~Anticipate the difficult by managing the easy.
- ~If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading.
- ~When you are content to be simply yourself and don't compare or compete, everybody will respect you
- ~Silence is a source of great strength.
- ~At the centre of your being you have the answer; you know who you are and you know what you want.
- ~Be content with what you have; rejoice in the way things are. When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you.
- ~Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.
- ~To lead people walk behind them.
- ~One who is too insistent on his own views, finds few to agree with him.
- ~To know you have enough is to be rich.

### LEGALISM

- ~It is dangerous for a ruler to trust others. He who trusts others can be manipulated by others.
- ~The enlightened ruler controls his ministers by means of the two handles alone. The two handles are punishment and favor. What do I mean by punishment and favor? To inflict mutilation and death on people is called punishment; to bestow honor and reward is called favor. Those who act as ministers fear the penalties and hope to profit by the rewards. Hence, if the ruler wields his punishments and favors, the ministers will fear his sternness and flock to receive his benefits.
- ~When a wise ruler governs a state, he cannot suppose that people will do the good things to him, but he uses people so that they couldn't do the bad things
- ~Wisdom is not different from the expression of intellectual superiority of a person.