

Article for English Corner Discussion

2. Discussion

1. Article 8-6 King Hui of Liang

孟子見梁惠王。王曰，「叟，不遠千里而來，亦將有以利吾國乎？」孟子對曰，「王何必曰利？亦有仁義而已矣。」王曰：『何以利吾國？』大夫曰：『何以利吾家？』士庶人曰：『何以利吾身？』上下交征利，而國危矣！萬乘之國弑其君者，必千乘之家；千乘之國，弑其君者，必百乘之家。萬取千焉，千取百焉，不為不多矣；苟為後義而先利，不奪不饜。」「未有仁而遺其親者也，未有義而後其君者也。」王亦曰仁義而已矣，何必曰利？」

Mencius went to see King Hui of Liang. The King said: "My good man, since you haven't thought one thousand *li* too far to come and see me, may I presume that you have something with which I can profit my kingdom?"

Mencius said: "Why must you speak of *profit*? What I have for you is Humaneness and Rightness, and that's all. If you always say 'how can I profit my kingdom?' your top officers will ask, 'how can we profit our clans?' The elites (*shi*)¹ and the common people will ask: 'How can we profit ourselves?' Superiors and inferiors will struggle against each other for profit, and the country will be in chaos."

"In a kingdom of ten thousand chariots, the murderer of the sovereign is usually from a clan of one thousand chariots. In a thousand-chariot kingdom, the murderer of the sovereign is usually from a clan of one hundred chariots. Now, to have a thousand in ten thousand, or one hundred in a thousand is not really all that much. But if you put due-giving last and profit first, no one will be satisfied unless they can grab something."

"There has never been a humane man who neglected his parents, and there has never been a just man who put his prince last in his priorities. King, can't we limit our conversation to humaneness and due-giving? Why must we discuss profit?"