



The Three-Character Classic

The Three-Character Classic is written in triplets of characters for easy memorization. With the short and simple text arranged in three-character verses, children can learn the basis of Confucian morality.

人之初 性本善

Men at birth, are naturally good.

性相近 習相遠

Their natures are much the same; their habits become widely different.

苟不教 性乃遷

If foolishly there is no teaching, the nature will deteriorate.

教之道 貴以專

The right way in teaching, is to attach the utmost importance in thoroughness.

養不教 父之過

To feed without teaching, is the father's fault.

教不嚴 師之惰

To teach without severity, is the teacher's laziness.

Reference:

Three Character Classic - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Character_Classic

Three Character Classic - Chinese Text Project: <http://ctext.org/three-character-classic>