



总主编 史小妹

LEGENDARY



FIGURES



AND  
THEIR STORIES

CLASSIC ESSAYS FOR MORNING READING SERIES

英语有声晨读系列

—— 传奇人物故事

主 编 史小妹



西北工业大学出版社

英语有声晨读系列——

# 传奇人物故事

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【内容简介】 本书精心遴选了48位震撼世界的伟人名家,以简洁活泼的笔法、通俗易懂的语言,生动地再现了他们的传奇人生。文章朗朗上口,精彩纷呈。名言句句震撼,发人深省。美音朗读,音质清晰优美。

本书既是英语爱好者们轻松的课外听读佳侣,又是指点人生的智慧积淀。

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# 前 言

成功人士之所以成功是因为他们出类拔萃。他们具有非凡的胆识、惊人的毅力。他们用自己超人的智慧、惊人的毅力,书写着精彩的人生,创造着一个个奇迹,推动着人类历史滚滚向前。

功高盖世的政治领袖,真知灼见的思想巨擘,铸造科技辉煌的科学精英,妙笔生花的文坛泰斗,匠心独运的艺术大师,从零到亿的商界奇才,智勇双全的体坛高手,才华横溢的影视精英,有勇有谋的传奇英雄……每一个人的身后都有着无数惊人的传奇故事。

正如唐太宗李世民所言,“以铜为鉴,可正衣冠;以史为鉴,可知兴衰;以人为鉴,可知得失。”从这些成功人士身上,我们可以看到超群的智慧,体验生命的精彩,学到做人的学问。他们的追求与奋斗,如同一面镜子,既映射着历史的过去,也映现出了世界的未来。他们的成功经验可以给人以启迪,使我们的人生旅途更加顺畅、辉煌。

历史的长河中,成功人士如繁星点点,个个璀璨。本书精心遴选了48位震撼世界的伟人名家,以简洁活泼的笔法、通俗易懂的语言,生动地再现了他们的辉煌人生,书写了他们的人生传奇,还撷取了他们的部分经典名言。文章朗朗上口,精彩纷呈。名言句句震撼,发人深省。读者可在轻松阅读中获得成功智慧,增强自身优势,最终迈向成功之路。

本书采用英汉对照的方式,并配有音质优良的美音朗读,以期提高读者的阅读能力,同时便于读者学习模仿。为了便于读者理解,本书还配有词汇点拨和文化信息注解。

本书适合中学生、大学低年级学生和广大英语爱好者阅读。

编 者  
2012年3月

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# 第一章 思想巨匠

## 1. 弗朗西斯·培根——文采斐然的英国哲学家

Histories make men wise, poets witty, the mathematics subtle,  
natural philosophy deep, moral grave, logic and rhetoric able to contend.

读史使人明智,读诗使人聪慧,演算使人精密,哲理使人深刻,伦理使人有修养,逻辑使人善辩!

——弗朗西斯·培根

Francis Bacon(1561 - 1626) was the founder of English materialist philosophy. He was born into the family of Sir Nicholas Bacon, keeper of the Privy Seal to Queen Elizabeth<sup>1</sup>. The boy early won the favor of the Queen. He went to Cambridge at twelve and after graduating at sixteen, took up law. He soon became one of the most successful lawyers of the time. At twenty-three he became a member of the House of Commons and his judgment and eloquence made him famous. When James I<sup>2</sup> came to England, Bacon obtained one important office after another until he became Lord Chancellor and was made a peer (nobleman) in 1618. He was an admirable judge, but in the course of rising he had made enemies who charged him with bribery. He was convicted, deprived of his office, fined and banished from London in 1621. Five years later, he died in disgrace at the age of 66.

Francis Bacon, lawyer, statesman, philosopher and master of English tongue, is famous not only for his philosophical works, but also for his essays. In 1597 he published a collection of ten essays, which were afterwards increased to fifty-eight, including the well-known one "On





Reading”, whose title is actually “Of Studies”. These essays cover a wide variety of subjects, such as love, truth, friendship, parents and children, beauty, studies, youth and age and many others. They have won popularity for his clearness, brevity and force of expression. Many of his sentences have become wise old sayings—“Men fear death as children fear to go in the dark,” “Reading makes a full man; conference a ready man, and writing an exact man.”

“Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.” This is a very famous saying from “Of Studies”. No advice is better than this. It tells us how to read different kinds of books.

弗朗西斯·培根(1561—1626年)被誉为英国唯物主义哲学的始祖。1561年1月22日,培根出生于伦敦一个官宦世家。父亲尼古拉·培根是伊丽莎白女王的掌玺大臣。培根打小才智超群,极受女王赏识。12岁时,被送入剑桥大学三一学院深造,16岁毕业于剑桥后从业律师,并很快成名。23岁当选下议院议员并以其明辨与口才颇受赞誉。詹姆士一世即位后对培根倍加赏识,培根也因此平步青云、扶摇直上。1618年晋升为英格兰大法官,受封为贵族一员。培根是个令人钦佩的法官,但升职的过程中也树敌不少,这些政敌于1621年指控培根受贿,因此他被判罪免职、判处罚款,并被终身逐出宫廷。5年后培根含辱而终,时年66岁。

培根既是律师、政治家、哲学家,又是一位语言大师。他的随笔有如他的哲学论著一样举世闻名。1597年,他出版了随笔文集,内含他的10篇随笔。后来,此文集扩至58篇,包括《论学习》。他的随笔题材广泛,涉猎爱情、真理、友谊、父母与子女、美、学习、青春与年龄等方方面面,并因其语言简约,文笔优美,见解独到而深受读者喜爱。其中有很多警句已成为至理名言。例如:“成人之怕死犹如儿童怕入暗处。”“读书使人充实,讨论使人机敏,写作使人严谨。”

“有些书可浅尝辄止,有些可囫圇吞枣,少数则须细细咀嚼、融会贯通。”这句至理名言源自《论学习》,它告诉我们如何阅读不同书籍。

## ☺ Words & Expressions

materialist philosophy 唯物主义哲学

Privy Seal 玉玺

take up 开始从事

the House of Commons 下议院

eloquence *n.* 雄辩;口才

nobleman *n.* 贵族

Lord Chancellor 大法官

charge (sb. with) *v.* 指控/指责





bribery *n.* 贿赂行为;受贿  
 convict *v.* 判罪;宣告有罪  
 deprive(sb. of) *v.* 剥夺;使丧失  
 banish *v.* 流放;放逐  
 disgrace *n.* 耻辱  
 brevity *n.* 简短  
 sayings *n.* 格言;警句;言语  
 conference *n.* 讨论;协商;会议  
 ready *adj.* 机敏的;准备好的

## Cultural Notes

1. Queen Elizabeth: 伊丽莎白一世是都铎王朝的第五位也是最后一位君主,于 1558 年 11 月 17 日至 1603 年 3 月 24 日任英格兰王国和爱尔兰女王。她终身未嫁,因此被称为“童贞女王”。她即位时不但成功地保持了英格兰的统一,而且在经过近半个世纪的统治后,使英格兰成为欧洲最强大的国家之一。英格兰文化也在此期间达到了一个顶峰,涌现出了诸如莎士比亚、弗朗西斯·培根这样的著名人物。英国在北美的殖民地亦在此期间开始确立。英国历史称她在位期间为“伊丽莎白时期”,也叫“黄金时代”。

2. James I: James Stuart(亦称 James VI and I,前者指他是苏格兰詹姆士六世,后者指他是英格兰詹姆士一世)生于 1566 年。1567 年,苏格兰贵族废黜玛利·斯图亚特,詹姆士在一岁零一个月就登上苏格兰王位,称詹姆士六世,由几个大贵族摄政。1581 年詹姆士宠爱的贵族道比尼·伦诺克斯协助他除掉摄政王莫顿,但是伦诺克斯激怒了一些贵族,因此詹姆士被高里伯爵劫持,伦诺克斯被逐,不久詹姆士又被其支持者救出。1583 年,詹姆士六世正式亲政。1587 年,其母玛丽因卷入暗杀英格兰女王伊丽莎白一世的阴谋而被处死。同年,詹姆士迎娶丹麦国王腓特烈二世的女儿安妮公主。通过与英格兰的女王伊丽莎白一世的股肱之臣罗伯特·塞西尔等人建立良好的关系,1603 年,在英国女王伊丽莎白一世驾崩后,詹姆士即位为英格兰国王,自封为大不列颠王国,史称詹姆士一世,时年 36 岁。1625 年,詹姆士一世驾崩。

## Brilliant Words of Bacon

✿ Knowledge is power.

知识就是力量。

✿ A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.

智者创造机会胜过发现机会。

✿ The world's a bubble and the life of man Less than a span.



世界是个泡沫,人生短如指距。

✱ Virtue is like precious odors, most fragrant when they are incensed, or crushed; for prosperity does best discover vice; but adversity does best discover virtue.

美德有如名香,愈焚愈压其香味愈浓烈;因为幸运最能暴露恶行,而厄运最能彰显美德。

✱ Travel, in the younger sort, is a part of education; in the elder, a part of experience. 旅行对青年人而言是一种教育;对老年人来说则是一种经历。

✱ This communicating of a man's self to his friend works two contrary effects, for it redoubles joys, and cuts grief in half.

朋友之间的交往产生两种截然相反的结果:一份快乐两人分享,能成为双份的快乐;一份痛苦两人分担,就会只剩下一半痛苦。

✱ Natural abilities are like natural plants, that need pruning by study, and studies themselves do give forth directions too much at large, except they be bounded in by experience.

人的才能如同自然界的植物一样,必须通过学习加以修整;而学习本身若无实践的约束必然方向纷杂、漫无目的。

## 2. 伊曼努尔·康德——特立独行的德国哲学家

Two things fill me with constantly increasing admiration and awe, the longer and more earnestly I reflect on them: the starry heavens without and the moral law within.

有两样东西,我对它们的思考越是深沉持久,它们在我心灵中唤起的钦佩与敬畏就愈加厚重,那就我头顶的星空与心中的道德法则。

——伊曼努尔·康德

Immanuel Kant (1724 - 1804) was an important figure in German philosophy. Kant was born into a lower-middle-class family. He grew up in Königsberg and never really left home. He studied in a Latin school from age eight until age sixteen, when he entered the University of Königsberg to take up theology, natural science, and philosophy. The death of his father forced him to abandon his studies in order to work as a private tutor, and he had to wait several years before returning to complete his education. By that time he was already writing serious books. From what is called Kant's precritical period, these early works are primarily scientific. In recognition of his talents, the university made him a lecturer and eventually a

professor. He taught logic and metaphysics. Twenty years later Kant attacked the reigning schools of thought. In this so-called critical period, he wrote his most famous book *The Critique of Pure Reason*<sup>1</sup>. Kant's work examined the relation of experience and perception: he was concerned with how people know what they know, and just as important, the proper uses of the powers of reasoning. He argued that reality can be perceived only to the extent that it complies with the aptitude of the mind that is doing the perceiving. This places one kind of limitation on what can be known. Kant saw another limitation, too: only phenomena—things that can be experienced—are capable of being understood; everything else is unknown. The human senses, therefore, take supreme precedence in determining what is real. Kant continued to develop his philosophy in subsequent books including *Critique of Judgment* and *Religion within the Limits of Reasons Alone*. Toward the end of his life he became increasingly antisocial and bitter over the growing loss of his memory and capacity for work. Kant became totally blind and finally died on Feb. 12, 1804.



Kant's philosophical model not only swept aside the ideas of the so-called empiricists and rationalists who came before him, it also had a lasting effect outside of philosophy, especially in the areas of ethics and the law.

伊曼努尔·康德(1724—1804年)是德国哲学界一个重要的人物。康德生于一个低中产阶级家庭。他在柯尼斯堡长大,从未真正离开过家。他从八岁起在一个拉丁学校上学,直到十六岁,他进入柯尼斯堡大学学习神学、自然科学和哲学。父亲的死使他放弃学业去做了一个家庭教师,他不得不等了好几年才得以重回大学完成他的学业。那时他已经开始著述了。这是他的前批判时期,这些早期的作品多是科学方面的。柯尼斯堡大学认同康德的才华,让他做了讲师,最终给他教授的头衔。康德教授逻辑和形而上学。二十年后,康德开始批判当前流行的思想学派。在所谓的批判时期,他写下了最著名的作品《纯粹理性批判》。康德的作品研究了经验和认知之间的关系,他关注的是,人们是如何得知他们知道什么。同样重要的是,推理能力的合理利用。他认为,现实能被认知多少取决于用来认知的大脑的能力范围。这对于什么能被感知有一种限制作用。康德还看到了另外一种限制。只有现象——能够被体验的东西——才能够被理解。其他都是不可知的。因此,当决定什么是真实的时,人的感官是处在最高级优先地位的。康德在随后的著作中继续发展他的哲学思想,这其中包括《判断力批判》和《仅在理性范围内的宗教》。走向生命终结的时候,他变得愈加不爱交际,由于渐渐失去记忆力和工作能力而变得愈加痛苦。康德变得完全失明,最终在1804年去世。



康德的哲学模式不仅横扫了在他之前的所谓经验主义和理性主义者的思想,在哲学之外也有持续的影响,尤其是在道德和法律的领域。

## Words & Expressions

Königsberg 柯尼斯堡(德国地名)

theology *n.* 神学

precritical *adj.* 前批判的

logic *n.* 逻辑学

metaphysics *n.* 形而上学

reigning *adj.* 本届的;比赛中最近获胜者的

aptitude *n.* 学习方面的才能或天资

comply(with) *v.* 遵从

Critique of Judgment 判断力批判

empiricist *n.* 经验主义者

rationalist *n.* 理性主义者

## Cultural Notes

1. *The Critique of Pure Reason*:《纯粹理性批判》。这是一部篇幅巨大、艰深难懂而又具创造性的哲学名著。所谓“纯粹理性”,是指独立于一切经验的理性;而所谓“批判”,则是指对这种纯粹思辨的理性进行一种考察,以便弄清楚人类知识的来源、范围与界限,这样才可以既避免独断论,又避免怀疑论,从而为建立一个科学的形而上学奠定基础。书中围绕着“先天综合判断如何可能”的问题,通过对先天直观形式和先验知性范畴的考察,说明了数学和自然科学是如何可能的,然后通过对理性的纯粹推论的考察提出了自然科学是如何可能的,然后通过对理性的纯粹推论的考察提出了将知性范畴运用于理性推论必然导致的二律背反,由此确立了现象与本体的二元论,以物自体的不可知为信仰留下了地盘。康德的《纯粹理性批判》是西方哲学史上一本划时代的著作。它推翻了旧形而上学的统治,被称为哲学上的“哥白尼革命”。它与其后的《实践理性批判》和《判断力批判》并称为康德“三大批判”。

## Brilliant Words of Kant

✿ It is not God's will merely that we should be happy, but that we should make ourselves happy.

我们要幸福,就不能仅仅指望上帝,而是要自己让自己幸福。

✱ Living without an aim is liking sailing without a compass.

没有目标的生活,恰如没有罗盘的航行。

✱ Honesty is better than any resourcefulness and is the basic condition of it.

诚实胜过一切智谋,因为它是智谋的基本条件。

✱ Seek not the favor of the multitude; it is seldom got by honest and lawful means. But seek the testimony of the few; and number not the voices, but weigh them.

不要一味地迎合大众,大众意愿很少能通过诚实合法的手段满足。要去倾听少数人的声音,不要以说话人的数量来定夺,要掂量他们话语的分量。

✱ Morality is not really the doctrine of how to make ourselves happy but of how we are to be worthy of happiness.

道德不是一门教人们如何幸福的学说,而是教人们如何成为配享有幸福的人的学说。

### 3. 苏格拉底——言行一致的希腊哲学家

Other men live to eat, while I eat to live.

别人为食而生存,我为生存而食。

——苏格拉底

Socrates (469 B. C. - 399 B. C.) was a Greek philosopher whose way of life, character, and thought exerted a profound influence on ancient and modern philosophy. Because he wrote nothing, information about his personality and doctrine is derived chiefly from depictions of his conversations and other information in the dialogues of Plato, in the *Memorabilia* of Xenophon<sup>1</sup>, and in various writings of Aristotle. He was a son of a sculptor, perhaps a sculptor himself in his early years. He was widely known for his intellectual powers even before he was 40. Socrates considered it his religious duty to call his fellow citizens to the examined life by engaging them in philosophical conversation. Neglecting his own affairs, he spent his time discussing



virtue, justice, and piety wherever his fellow citizens congregated. In his self-appointed task as gadfly to the Athenians, Socrates made numerous enemies. In 399 B. C. he was brought to trial for corrupting youth and for religious heresies and condemned to death by poisoning; he submitted to the sentence willingly. Plato's *Apology* purports to be the speech that Socrates gave in his own defense. As depicted in the *Apology*, Socrates' trial and death raise vital questions about the nature of democracy, the value of free speech, and the potential conflict between moral and religious obligation and the laws of the state.

Socrates' contributions to philosophy were a new method of approaching knowledge, a conception of the soul as the seat both of normal waking consciousness and of moral character, and a sense of the universe as purposively mind-ordered. Socrates' method, called dialectic, consisted in examining statements by pursuing their implications, on the assumption that if a statement were true it could not lead to false consequences. Socrates' view is often described as holding virtue and knowledge to be identical, so that no man knowingly does wrong. Since virtue is identical with knowledge, it can be taught, but not as a professional specialty as the Sophists<sup>2</sup> had pretended to teach it. However, Socrates himself gave no final answer to how virtue can be learned.

苏格拉底(公元前 469—公元前 399 年)是古希腊哲学家。他的生活方式、性格和思想对古代和近代哲学产生了深远的影响。由于他不著述,他的人格和学说的主要来源于柏拉图的《对话录》中对他的谈话和其他记录的描述、色诺芬的《回忆录》中的描述以及在各种亚里士多德的著作中的描述。苏格拉底是一个雕塑家的儿子,或许他早年也从事过这个行业。在四十岁之前,他就以智力超群而广为人知。苏格拉底认为,他的宗教使命在于通过哲学对话唤起他的同胞审视人生。他不关心自己,而是花时间在人群聚集的地方和大家讨论美德、正义和虔诚这些话题。苏格拉底自我任命的工作,就是像牛虻一样批评雅典人,由此他招致了很多敌人。公元前 399 年,他因腐蚀青年和信奉异端宗教被审讯,并被判处毒死。苏格拉底自愿服从了判决。柏拉图的《申辩篇》声称是苏格拉底为自己辩护的演讲。据《申辩篇》的描述,苏格拉底的审判和死亡提出了很多重要的问题,诸如民主的本质、言论自由的价值、道德宗教义务与国家法律之间的潜在冲突。

苏格拉底对哲学的贡献包括获取知识的新方法,灵魂作为正常的清醒意识和思想品德的座椅概念,以及头脑有序的宇宙感。苏格拉底法,即辩证法,主要是通过探寻陈述的内涵去检查这个陈述。这个方法基于的假设是:如果一个陈述是正确的,它就不会推论到错误的结果。苏格拉底的观点一般被描述为美德与知识是相同的,所以智者不会错。既然美德与知识一致,它就可以被教授,但是不是像智者派那样假装去教它。然而,苏格拉底对于美德如何习得,却没有给出最终的答案。



## Words & Expressions

Plato 柏拉图  
*Memorabilia* *n.* 《回忆录》  
 Aristotle 亚里士多德  
*virtue* *n.* 美德  
*piety* *n.* 虔诚  
*Apology* 《申辩篇》  
*gadfly* *n.* 牛虻  
 Athenian *n.* 雅典人  
*heresy* *n.* 异端邪说  
*purport* *v.* 声称  
*obligation* *n.* 责任; 义务  
*sophist* *n.* 诡辩; 智者派

## Cultural Notes

1. Xenophon: 色诺芬(约公元前 430—公元前 354), 古希腊历史学家、作家, 雅典人, 苏格拉底的弟子。公元前 401 年参加希腊雇佣军助小居鲁士争夺波斯王位, 未遂, 次年率军而返。前 396 年投身斯巴达, 被母邦判处终身放逐。著有《远征记》、《希腊史》(修昔底德《伯罗尼撒战争史》之续编, 叙事始于公元前 411 年, 止于公元前 362 年) 以及《回忆苏格拉底》等。

2. Sophist: 智者派。这是公元前 5 世纪至前 4 世纪活跃在古希腊各邦的一批职业教师、演说家、作家。“智者”原指古希腊的哲学人, 后泛指有智慧、有能力、技艺超群的人。公元前 5 世纪的后半叶, “智者”一词才获得了特殊的含义, 成为以收费授徒为职业的一部分人的专有名称。这些职业教师适应社会民主政治活动的需要, 在各种公共集会上, 发表演说, 回答人们提出的各种问题; 向青年人传授辩论的艺术, 即雄辩术。智者们向年轻人传授文法、修辞、辩证法这些课程。除此之外, 还教授数学、自然科学以及音乐等。而且还认为, 道德是可以控制和培养的, 是教育的结果。他们对自然哲学持怀疑态度, 认为世界上没有绝对不变的真理。他们对自然哲学持怀疑态度, 认为世界上没有绝对不变的真理。其著名的代表人物是普洛道格拉斯 (Protagoras, 约公元前 485—公元前 410), 他认为: “人是衡量万物的尺度。”

## Brilliant Words of Socrates

✧ I know nothing except the fact of my ignorance.





除了我无知的事实之外,我一无所知。

✱ Envy is the ulcer of the soul.

嫉妒是灵魂的溃腐。

✱ The fewer our wants the more we resemble the Gods.

欲望愈少,我们就愈接近神。

✱ The unexamined life is not worth living.

没有经过考验的人生是不值得活的。

✱ The only good is knowledge and the only evil is ignorance.

唯一的善是知识,唯一的恶是无知。

✱ Remember what is unbecoming to do is also unbecoming to speak of.

要记住不适合做的事也不适合说。

✱ Remember that there is nothing stable in human affairs; therefore avoid undue elation in prosperity, or undue depression in adversity.

记住人间世事无一恒定不变;因此,顺境时莫要过度得意,逆境时也无须过度沮丧。

✱ I do nothing but go about persuading you all, old and young alike, not to take thought for your persons or your properties, but and chiefly to care about the greatest improvement of the soul.

我只想奉劝所有人,无论老幼,不要把心思放在容貌与财产上,而要关注精神的最大提升,这是最重要的。

#### 4. 孔子——倡导仁爱的中国教育家

To see what is right and not to do it is want of courage.

见贤思齐焉,见不贤而内自省也。

——孔子

Confucius (551 B. C. - 479 B. C.) was an ancient Chinese teacher, philosopher, and political theorist. Born into a poor family in the feudal state of Lu, he managed stables and worked as a bookkeeper while educating himself. Mastery of the six arts— ritual, music, archery, charioteering, calligraphy, and arithmetic—and familiarity with history and poetry

enabled him to begin a brilliant teaching career in his thirties. Confucius saw education as a process of constant self-improvement and held that its primary function was the training of noblemen. He saw public service as the natural consequence of education and sought to revitalize Chinese social institutions, including the family, school, community, state, and kingdom. Distressed by the constant warfare between the Chinese states and by the venality and tyranny of the rulers, he urged a system of morality and statecraft that would preserve peace and provide people with stable and just government. He gathered about him a number of disciples, some occupying high positions, although Confucius himself was at most granted an insignificant sinecure, possibly because of his extremely outspoken manner toward his superiors. At the age of fifty-one he became active in political life. But after only four years he was forced to leave his position of influence. From about his 55th to his 65th year he journeyed to several neighboring states, but he was never able to induce any ruler to grant him high office so that he might introduce his reforms.



On the last day of his life Confucius is reported to have said, "The great mountain must collapse, the mighty beam must break and the wise man wither like a plant. . . No wise ruler arises, and no one in the Empire wishes to make me his teacher. The hour of my death has come." He died at the age of seventy-three, never knowing he would one day be acknowledged as one of the greatest philosophers the world has ever known. Twenty-five hundred years later, people would apply his wisdom to everyday problems by saying, "Confucius said. . ." His life and thoughts are recorded in the *Analects*<sup>1</sup>, a collection of sayings and short dialogues apparently collected by his disciples.

孔子(公元前 551—公元前 479 年)是中国古代的教育家、哲学家和政治理论家。他生于鲁国一个贫穷的家庭。他管理马厩,担任簿记,同时自学。孔子精通六艺(礼、乐、射、御、书及术),熟悉历史和诗歌,这些都使得他在 30 多岁时就开始了辉煌的教学生涯。孔子认为教育是一个不断自我完善的过程,并认为它的主要功能是培养君子。他认为公共服务是教育的自然结果,并且探求如何振兴中国社会机构,包括家庭、学堂、乡邑、诸侯国和国家。孔子担忧诸侯国间不断的战争和统治者的腐化和暴政,他提出一套道德和治国之道,希望能够维护和平,给人们提供一个稳定和公正的政府。他身边聚集了一批弟子,其中有些位居高位。或许由于孔子对上司直言不讳的方式,他只是被授予了一个微不足道的闲职。51 岁的时候,他开始在政治上活跃起来。仅仅 4 年后,他就被迫离开自己的职位。大约 55~65 岁,他游历了周围的几个诸侯国。但是他从未能说服任何统治者给他一个高的职位,以便他实施改革。

