

# HOW INTELLECTUALS STUMBLE OVER THEIR INTELLIGENCE

**The Analects of Ryoichi Sasakawa**



**By Yohei Sasakawa**

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### WHO WAS THIS JAPANESE? — A MAN WHO VOLUNTEERED TO BECOME A WAR CRIMINAL AND WHO CONTINUED TO FIGHT WITH VICTORIOUS NATIONS

[1] *"I was not born for the sake of my sons or grandchildren, but for the sake of others."* 21

[2] *"You don't have to study. I'll teach you about life."* 24

[3] *"Intellectuals stumble over their intelligence."* 27

[4] *"I ran for the House of Representatives because I wanted to prevent a military dictatorship and preserve parliamentary politics."* 30

[5] *"Had Isoruku Yamamoto had his way, we would not have ended in this misery."* 32

[6] *"I'm sure I can enter Sugamo Prison as a war criminal. If I can go there, I will work for my fatherland and make the argument that the Japanese nation was not an aggressor."* 36

[7] "When I went to greet my mother on the morning of my departure to Sugamo, she celebrated it with sea bream soup and red-bean rice." 39

[8] "Perhaps my being classified Class A means I worked too hard for Japan." 42

[9] "You, Hideki Tojo, cannot be spared the death penalty. Since you are doomed to die, accept the entire responsibility on your shoulders." 44

[10] "Nobusuke Kishi, who confessed his uncontrollable sexual urges, was a man of conviction, as reputed. He was fully qualified to be the boss of bureaucrats." 47

[11] "How about it, couldn't this burning mogusa cure your illness?"  
50

[12] "All of you, rise against Communists; dedicate your lives to the thorough defense of the Imperial System and defeating Communism." 53

[13] "That war was absolutely not a war of aggression. It was an inevitable war to secure our right to survival." 56

[14] "You behave as though you are the proxy of righteousness because you are the victor but, General MacArthur, you are the No.1 War Criminal!"  
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[15] "My mother told me, 'Try your best to have those still detained liberated even a day earlier and stop smoking and drinking until that day'." 62

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[17] "Is that so? But have you found a way to take money to the next world?" 71

[18] *"Age is a thief who comes to steal our life without even asking. Why should you honor the thief?"* 73

[19] *"When the time comes, we all die, even if 100 doctors manage your health or even if you hide inside a safe."* 75

[20] *"Life is not the length of time one has lived, but how one has lived."*  
77

[21] *"My hobby is work. I don't even think of playing golf."* 79

[22] *"One's life is determined by which of the four one welcomes: devil's hand, Buddha's heart; Buddha's hand, devil's heart; devil's mouth, Buddha's heart; or Buddha's mouth, devil's heart."* 81

[23] *"There are few people worth trusting. Friends abound in good times but are so rare in troubled times."* 84

[24] *"There is no path for enlightenment other than through the heart."*  
86

[25] *"There is no human being who does not have the gambling impulse."*  
88

[26] *"Those who destroy their homes by gambling have weak willpower."*  
90

[27] *"You must never spoil children. It's good neither for the children nor for society."* 94

[28] *"Your parents scold you because they love you. Don't ever resent them."*  
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[29] *"He is younger but I felt as though my father was holding me when I was a toddler."* 98

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[32] *"The education by the Japan Teachers' Union — teachers demonstrating, not singing the national anthem or not respecting the national flag — is wrong."* 108

[33] *"There are those who argue for giving firemen and nurses the right to strike."* 110

[34] *"Our Imperial Family is unique in the world."* 113

[35] *"We must defend ourselves. Lock your doors and beware of fire."* 116

[36] *"He might be an assassin to the Japanese. But he was a patriot in your country. Let me gladly offer flowers for his grave."* 118

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[39] *"Declare all gifts to the Tax Office."* 130

[40] *"I don't drink with people we have assisted."* 132

[41] *"Believe it or not, I don't receive any salary. I have money and assets, so I must not receive any salary."* 135

[42] *"You must not take a bath, you will afflict people in Hong Kong. Don't take baths."* 137

[43] *"Don't worry. You won't die from a leak in the roof."* 139

[44] *"The government which decided to prohibit prostitution is wrong, but those who advocated it should take responsibility. That is my stance."* 142

[45] *"People seem to be gathering around you recently saying, you will succeed me. That will never happen."* 145

[46] *"You've become a working man. Grow into the type who can bring home a carton full of cash."* 148

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[51] *"Even if it soils my hand, I cannot wipe my hands after shaking hands."* 162

[52] *"Oh, yes. I am popular. Women like manly guys. But I also lose them easily."* 169

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[57] *"Timing is the essence of aid. Unless you give it in such a way that the recipient is touched, it is dead money."* 185

[58] *"Let us do what we can without being manipulated by petty bureaucrats."* 187

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[60] *"Let's prove to the world that this vaccine is safe and widely disseminate it."* 193

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[62] *"Give me all your money so that I can donate it to leprosy hospitals. It will make you feel better to donate your money to those in plight than it will to buy souvenirs."* 198

[63] *"However difficult, a path to solution is found. This must be your unflagging conviction."* 200

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