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# iChing.Wiki NEWS

## Practicing Ren 仁

A small group of men and women appear at a local coffee cafe, some people almost daily and some a few time a week. We have very different views of many things.

The conversation ranges from the government, energy, our latest project, to the metaphysical. It does not matter what the subject is; what we are really practicing is respect, honesty, and listening to understand - and kindness.

We are practicing the Confucian Ren 仁, the human hearted person.

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The purpose of building iChing.Wiki is to encourage people to live a spiritual life. While the I Ching gives practical advice, it can aid you on your spiritual path.

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The swirling winds of Yang.  
Received by a waiting earth.  
Rest, embraced by Yin.

*Jim Olsen*



## Nature Delivers Yin

The powerful winds subside leaving a blanket of snow. The suns travel across the sky shortens the time of its daily visit. The moon and the stars lengthen their stay.

Many plants begin their sleep. Power has been dissipated into the receptive earth, embraced.

Humans who have braved the winds are now surrounded by a quiet blanket of snow. A time for contemplation is near. The Yin.

Oh, that the power of Yang will come in time; everything will awaken.





## The Reciprocity of Confucius

The Golden Rule is virtually a universal ethic throughout the world. Possibly the earliest document containing the idea is a wonderful Egyptian poem, *The Eloquent Peasant*, which is a poetic appeal by a peasant to a ruler for the return of his confiscated trade goods:

*Act for the man who acts, to cause him to act as you would wish him to act toward you.*

In the Eastern Mediterranean region Golden Rule was articulated as both a religious and Classical Greek ethic:

- Classic Greek philosophy: *If we never do ourselves what we blame in others.*
- Zoroaster, the founder of a religion that was firmly established in the Persia by 500 BC, made a similar statement: ... *that nature is good when it shall not do unto another whatever is not suitable for its own self.*
- Hebrew Bible and Christian Old Testament: ... *thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*
- Christian New Testament: *And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. ...*

The idea of the golden rule is present in the religions that arose in India, for example:

- Buddhism: *One who, while himself seeking happiness, oppresses with violence other beings who also desire happiness, will not attain happiness hereafter.*

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The Confucian Golden Rule:

己所不欲，勿施於人

*What you wish not for yourself, do not do to other people.*

This doctrine gives a word to live by:

Asked, "Is there one word which may serve as a rule of practice for all one's life?"



The Master, Confucius, said, "Is not RECIPROcity (惠 Hue) such a word? What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others."

For Confucius, the Golden Rule does not stand alone, but is an integral part of the superior person so often discussed in the *I Ching*, a person who embodies another universal idea — moderation.

Mencius wrote of the Confucian practice to embody a virtuous life.

*The superior person makes advances learning with deep earnestness and by the proper course, wishing to get hold of it as in themself.*

*Having got hold of it in themself, one abides in it calmly and firmly.*

*Abiding in it calmly and firmly, one reposes a deep reliance on it.*

*Reposing a deep reliance on it, one seizes it on the left and right, meeting everywhere with it as a fountain from which things flow.*

*It is on this account that the superior person wishes to get hold of what had been learn as in themself.*