



鏡子

Mirror

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鏡子，是家庭必備的生活必需品。人人在踏出家門之際，都不免要照照鏡子，確保自己衣著打扮得宜。然而除了這用來整理儀容的鏡子外，我們常備的應該還有更重要的「明鏡」，正如唐太宗有一名言：「夫以銅為鏡，可以正衣冠；以古為鏡，可以知興替；以人為鏡，可以明得失。」

唐太宗所謂的「以古為鏡，可以知興替」，說的是可以依前代帝王所為得知國家的興衰，也可以由此學習到我們能以自己或他人為借鑑，映射自己的言行舉止是否合宜。當我們每天照鏡子時，除了整理自己的衣冠以外，不妨也檢視一下自己的言行是否也有需要修改之處，例如待人是否恭敬，處事是否適宜。每日的自我反省能夠使人愈來愈進步。

「以人為鏡，可以明得失」，說明將人當作明鏡，可以明白自己的得失與過錯。如果我們多交益

Mirror is a necessity of daily life for the family. However, everyone has to use the mirror to make sure he is properly dressed up when going out. We should also have a more important spiritual mirror other than the physical one that can be used to have an untidy appearance for us. As Emperor Tang Taizhong said, "if one uses a bronze mirror, he can settle his clothing and hats; if one uses history as a mirror, he can take hold of the alternating of dynasties; if he use a person as a mirror, he can verify his advantages and misdeeds."

What Emperor Tang Taizhong meant about "using history as a mirror to take hold of the altering of dynasties" was to predict the fall and rise of a country by the deeds of its preceding emperors. From observing ordinary people like us, if we do so, we can also learn from others and examine our own behaviors. When we look in the mirror everyday, we should also remind ourselves to examine whether our speeches or deeds are proper besides simply settle our appearances. For example whether we treat people with respect and treat things appropriately. We can make improvements progressively by means of a retrospective review of our manner.



友，並能誠懇接納朋友的批評建議，那麼我們的朋友就能有如白雪公主裡的「魔鏡」一樣，誠實的指出我們的不足之處，幫助我們改進。又若有朋友告訴我們說話太直接，容易得罪別人，我們必須知道朋友的話不是指責，而是善意的叮嚀，他希望我們能改變說話的習慣，才不會替自己在無意間樹立了敵人。能夠當自己「鏡子」的朋友非常難得，若發現身邊有此益友，應當好好珍惜。

無論是真實的鏡子，或是象徵的「明鏡」，都是讓我們能夠好好審視自己的良好工具，我們應當好好使用，以使自己能夠日益精進。🌀

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“One can verify his advantages and misdeeds by virtue of using a person as a mirror” means that when doing so, we can comprehend very well the misdeeds and mistakes of our own. If we make more good friends that can really help us, and in return we can accept the criticism and suggestions from them, these friends can act as the “Magic Mirror” in the story of Snow White by commenting on our disadvantages for improvement. Some will say that direct criticism to others might be harmful to the relationships with others; however, we should know that these criticisms from our friends are not just accusations. These words are made from their good will to changes the way we talk and do, so we won't cause misunderstanding with others and have enemies. It is rare to have such friends, if you have one, you should cherish the friendship.

No matter it be a physical mirror or a spiritual one, a mirror is always the best tool to examine our own deeds. We should use it well and improve ourselves day by day.🌀

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