

Discussing the Virtue of Xin in My Life

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Have you ever heard of the classical drama *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare? "To be, or not to be, that is the question"(Shakespeare). That's probably the best-known line from it. We are forced to make a choice every time in our life. Sometimes, it is not serious like the situation in drama. However, it is still severe. Living under the abuse, ridicule, oppression, temptation of the world, would you still insist on Xin? In ancient China, Xin (Integrity, Honesty, Fidelity) is one of the Five Constant Virtues of Confucianism, and it has significantly impacted the social values and options of world culture (Liu 267). From the time children were born, everyone teaches them to be honest. Adults keep saying that integrity is the foundation of human. However, as time goes by, children grow up, and the reality changes. In the complex and uncertain real world, some people are not honest at all. When people are faced with difficulty or temptation with money, some people give up Xin. The worse people believe that money and interests are the supreme value, and they reject opposite viewpoints. In these severe situations, what is your answer? For me, no matter what the situation is, I prefer to be honest every time because Xin is the most important one to practice in my life.

It reminds me of my personal experience. I was a manager assistant in a Chinese company in 2017, and I worked tirelessly for a small salary. I was not eating lunch with my colleagues because I brought lunch from home to save money. One day, "Whose diamond is it?" I yelled. My voice reflected the wall from all directions. Then, my brain clicked. There was no one with me at lunchtime in the company. It was a huge diamond on an earring flashing in the sun. However, I never considered taking this diamond for my own. When my

colleagues came back, I yelled again. "Whose diamond is it?" I gave it back to the girl sitting behind me. When I told this experience to my cousin, she reprimanded me and asked me why I did this. The diamond worth a lot of money. We don't need to worry about the cost of living if I am not giving it back to the owner. I felt very aggrieved at that time. We ruined it by squabbling. In my mind, I am a human, so I cannot betray my virtues. I don't gain any profits from the event even without a word of thanks. However, I feel satisfied with peace of mind. Moreover, more people like me insist on Xin, and more people can retrieve the lost items. Even though without applause and praise, I still want to be an honest person.

Last time, I slightly doubt my choice. I did not get reality rewards from my choice, but I was not deeply hurt from it. However, the worse event happened. One of my duties was to supervise the whole company, so I found the marketing manager probably stole money. At that time, I didn't enroll in the college, so I didn't know the right way to deal with the problem. I asked him why the customer feedback is different than yours in front of everyone. He just yelled at me: "Don't poke your snout into everything. OK? It is none of your business!" Everyone stared at me, but I didn't know how to reply to him. I can't believe that he was boldface in his dishonest. For me, Xin is the most important thing in my life. I should try my best to settle the matter. However, when the manager faced temptation with money, he chose not to be honest. The colleagues also treated the manager kindly, and no one accused him except me. After a few days, without any change, I notified my boss of the whole thing. He ordered me to stop doing anything, and then he kicked me upstairs by putting me as the general manager of the branch. He used this promotion to let me ignore the manager's fault. However, I wanted justice, not promotion. All the managers and their assistants knew what

happened. I asked help from the woman because last time she got help from me. However, she refused to help me, and she told me it is my choice to give the diamond back to her. I found myself in a similar situation as in the diamond event. I must make a choice between honesty and money. When I came into the cafeteria, they stopped talking or laughing. Suddenly, they laughed again, this time with a cold, sharp tone. I felt that I was being cut out, but this was not the knife stabbing my heart. I started to doubt myself, and I asked myself many times a day whether I am doing something wrong. Finally, I can't persuade myself to follow them, so I resigned.

After I left the company, during the first semester in college, I was saved from destruction by the books. I learned three ideas to make sure it is not my fault, and I do not doubt Xin any more. Firstly, virtue is priceless. It not only decides who we are but also protects the safety of society. According to *Undercover* by Danielle Steel, Marshall Everett as an undercover DEA agent paid the devastating price to perform the mission. He loses everyone he loved (Steel). Police are also a kind of job with a common wage. Sometimes they should conceal even their names and live in danger. Is it worth it? There is a group of people in the world who never consider the value to be worthwhile. The police want to stop crime to save more people, no matter what it takes. I felt guilty about that when I face money and honesty, I doubt my choice. Secondly, following the virtues will never be wrong because the problem is the person. In *Tartuffe* by Moliere, the main character Orgon is easily cheated by Tartuffe, but his wife keeps protecting him (Moliere). It is hard to say everyone is a liar because his wife never gives up him. We cannot be guided by the behavior of a few people to deny everyone's value. For me, the woman, manager, and boss in the company do not insist

on Xin, but it doesn't mean everyone in the world does not insist on Xin. Thirdly, the reason I suffered from these pains is not to insist on Xin. It is because of my poor education level. I learned the right way to deal with the problem in my textbook. "The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 protects whistle-blowers who report corporate misconduct" (Pride 43). We have the law to prevent the hurt when we insist on Xin. We cannot be disheartened by these formidable challenges. We are adults, so we should know how to distinguish right from wrong. We should not use the money to measure the intangible virtues of Xin and use fear as a reason to give up Xin.

After three months, the boss started to call me. He told me that the manager departure pushed his clients to the competitor, and the manager betrayed the firm. He called me many times to ask me if I want to be reinstated, but I still refused. I thought he became more aware of that honesty is the basis of everything. I am also very satisfied. In the face of suffering, I have not bowed. Both of us learned an important lesson. I should insist on honesty every time without any doubt.

In conclusion, not only the personal event but also the social event, Xin of virtues is the most important one to practice in human's life. For me, when I was faced with the diamond, I wanted to help the person who lost it. When I was faced with the dishonesty, I was brave to expose it. When I was faced with the promotion, I never agree to compromise. Sometimes, we want more money to do more things, and we want easy ways to overcome difficulties. There are many ways to compromise situations in life, giving up on honesty is not one of them.

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