

## 苛政猛于虎

kē zhèng měng yú hǔ

## Tyranny Is Fiercer Than a Tiger



孔子路过泰山旁边，听见有一个妇人在墓前痛哭流涕。就叫学生去问她说：“你的哭声好像有什么原因。”她回答说：“是的，从前我的公公被老虎吃掉，后来我的丈夫也被老虎吃掉，现在我的儿子也被老虎吃掉了。”孔子问她：“为什么不离开这里？”她回答说：“这里没有暴虐的统治（苛政）。”孔子回头对他的学生说：“你们记住，暴虐的统治比老虎更可怕（猛于虎）。”

后世用“苛政猛于虎”这句话来说明当政者不得暴虐，或者指责某处的统治者压迫人民。

Confucius was once passing by Mount Tai (泰山), when he heard a woman, who was standing in front of a grave, wailing bitterly. He sent one of his disciples to enquire the reason. "By the sound of your lamentation," he said, "you seem to be afflicted by some grievous sorrow." The woman replied, "Yes, a tiger killed and devoured my father-in-law, and then my husband suffered the same fate. Now my son has been gobbled up by another tiger." Hearing this, Confucius asked her, "Then why don't you leave this place?" The woman answered, "Because here there is no tyrannical rule." Thereupon, Confucius turned to his disciples and said, "Keep this in mind, young fellows: tyranny is fiercer than a tiger."

Later, this saying came to be used to warn rulers not to

act in a tyrannical fashion and to criticize governments  
oppress their people.

注:① 泰山是中国的名山之一,在山东省。

Mount Tai is one of China's most famous mountains  
situated in Shandong Province.

The stanza "shaping an abundant (axe) handle, Bin" in the Book of Songs...  
axe handle? It cannot be done without an axe handle? It cannot be done without an axe handle?  
Later, based on this metaphor, the idiom "shaping an axe handle" was called "shaping an axe handle".



Later, this saying came to be used to warn rulers not to  
become tyrannical rulers. Confucius turned to his dis-  
ciples and said, "As a ruler in mind, young fellows, tyranny is  
worse than a tiger." "Because there is no  
fear of the ruler, the woman weaved." "Then why don't you leave this  
country?" Confucius asked them. "Then why don't you leave this  
country?" "Hearing that my son has been robbed up by another tiger." Hearing  
that, the woman weaved. "Yes, a tiger killed and devoured my  
father-in-law, and then my husband suffered the same fate."  
"You seem to be all right by some grievous sorrow."  
"The reason is the sound of your lamentation." He  
was waiting for the first one of his disciples to en-  
ter. He heard a woman weaving. He was standing in front of a  
mountain. Confucius was once passing by Mount Tai (泰山).

