

中国人的谦虚



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谦虚

Chinese
modesty

zhōng guó rén de qiān xū.

生词 Key Words



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1. 谦虚	qiān xū	n.	modesty
2. 孔子	kǒng zǐ	n.	Confucius
3. 美德	měi dé	n.	virtue
4. 典型	diǎn xíng	adj.	typical
5. 奢华	shē huá	adj.	sumptuous
6. 宴会	yàn huì	n.	banquet
7. 道歉	dào qiàn	v.	apologize
8. 夸奖	kuā jiǎng	v./n.	compliment
9. 赠与	zèng yǔ	n.	gift; offers
10. 推辞	tuī cí	v.	refuse
11. 拆	chāi	v.	open
12. 低调	dī diào	adj.	low key
13. 集体意识	jí tǐ yìshí	n.	group-consciousness



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课文 Text



Modesty is one of the traditional virtues the great sage Confucius advocated. Although a great scholar, Confucius admonished his students, “When walking in the company of three, there must be one I can learn from”. To Confucius modesty and humility are required qualities for a society to sustain itself while pride will lead to destruction.

Qiān xū shì kǒng zǐ tí chàng de měi dé,
谦虚是孔子提倡的美德，
tā shuō guò: sān rén xíng, bì yǒu wǒ shī。
他说过：三人行，必有我师。

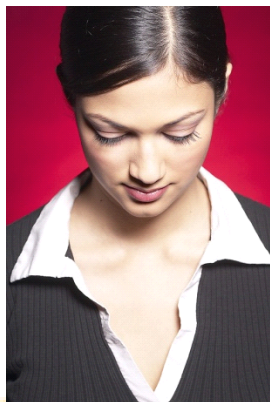


zhōng guó rén de qiān xū.

课文 Text



The typical example of the modesty is demonstrated by the host to his visitors. He will apologize for the ill-preparation and small quantity of his food, which turns out to be sumptuous banquet.



Diǎn xíng de zhōng guó shì qiān xū shì:

典型的 中国 式 谦虚 是：

jǐ shǐ zhǔ rén zhǔn bèi de shì shē huá de yàn huì,

即使 主人 准备 的是 奢华 的 宴会，

yě huì wèi zhǔn bèi bù zhōu hé fàn cài bù hǎo ér dào qiàn。

也会 为 准备 不周 和 饭菜 不好 而 道歉。

zhōng guó rén de qiān xū.

And the modesty is also shown when the Chinese accept compliments. They always respond to compliments with “Nali, nali.(literally where? Where?)” – figuratively meaning, “I have done nothing to deserve your compliment.”

Zhōng guó rén bèi kuā jiǎng shí huì shuō: “Nǎ lǐ nǎ lǐ.”

中 国 人 被 夸 奖 时 会 说：“ 哪 里 哪 里。”

Yì si shì: Wǒ méi yǒu nǐ shuō de nà me hǎo.

意 思 是：我 没 有 你 说 得 那 么 好。



zhōng guó rén de qiān xū.

Another common way to show the Chinese modesty is that the Chinese often politely refuse offers of drinks, refreshments, gifts and other favors two or three times before graciously accepting them. Their modesty requires them not to open the gifts to the sender's face.

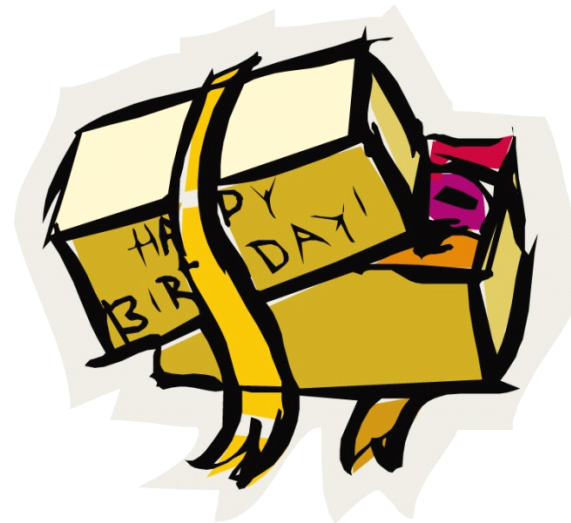
Zhōng guó rén yī bān huì tuī cí jǐ cì zhī hòu cái

中国人一般会推辞几次之后才
jiē shòu bié rén de zèng yǔ。

接受别人的赠与。

Tā mén bú huì dāng miàn chāi lǐ wù。

他们不会当面拆礼物。



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Their modesty requires them not to challenge but to respect, which results in a low profile of Chinese. This is sometimes misunderstood as no ambition or competitive spirit. Their modesty leads them more to group-consciousness rather than to individual-consciousness.

Qiānxū shǐ zhōngguó rén kàn shàngqù gèng dīdiào,
谦虚使中国人看上去更低调，
gèng jùyǒu jíǐ yìshí。
更具有集体意识。

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zhōng guó rén de qiān xū.



1. Sānrén xíng, bì yǒu wǒshī。

三人行，必有我师。

When walking in the company of three, there must be one I can learn from.

2. Nǎli nǎli。

哪里哪里。

I have done nothing to deserve your compliment.

