

The village worthy essay

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In the Confucian Book of Mencius, he recalled Confucius as he said, “ The only person who gives me no regret is passing by my gate without coming in is the village worthy. The village worthy is the thief of virtue ” (Hall and Ames 41). The village worthy is regarded as the thief of virtue because the deeds of this individual only conform to the norms of the society. The village worthy is an individual who merely gives importance to the external factors but he or she has no inner direction.

This kind of human being defines his or her action based on the expectation of the society. He or she has no real conduct for the fact that the individual adjusts his or her desires and actions based on the social standard that exists in his or her time. This is quite observable in the analects of Mencius that states “ He Chimes in with the practices of the day and blends in with the common world” (Hall and Ames 41). In this sense, the village worthy has no true sense of self or integrity because his or her social role is dependent on what the society thinks that he or she should do. From Mencius’ analects which states that “ His community all like him, and he sees himself as being right”, means that the village worthy lacks moral judgment (Hall and Ames 41).

A village worthy does not have a proper sense of morality because what is right for him or her is dependent on the dictates of the society. The person lacks proper judgments because of the possible moral dilemmas that will exist in society that which will require his or her judgment call; but since a village worthy only wants to please the society, he or she will not make an ethically sound decision. Moreover, societal norms are not always right or

virtuous. Being the case, a village worthy is indeed the thief of virtue. Work Cited Hall, David., and Ames, Roger.

“ Chinese Philosophy.” World Philosophy. Eds. Robert Solomon and Kathleen Higgins. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1995.