

Confucius Said ...

Somebody once asked Confucius – the famous Chinese thinker and social philosopher – what the ingredients were for good government. It's a good question; one that should be asked today.

His answer: "Sufficient food, sufficient weapons, and the confidence of the common people."

Suppose he had to eliminate one of the three, the man asked Confucius, which one would he drop?

"Weapons," said Confucius.

What if he had to eliminate one of the remaining two? the man continued to press him.

Confucius replied that he would eliminate food, pointing out that down through the ages hunger has always been the lot of many people. The last thing he would eliminate, Confucius said, was the confidence of the common people. "People who no longer trust their leaders are lost indeed," he declared.

Those are wise words, indeed. And they have great meaning for those of us who lead in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. Our associates look to us for direction, for motivation and for information. If we are no longer credible – by what we say or what we do – and their confidence in us is destroyed, we become ineffective.

To lead is an awesome responsibility; it is also a privilege and a trust, to be guarded wisely.

--Beecher Hunter