Journal 6

Original unit: Greatness

Prompt: understanding about greatness

11/27/2011

Though different people have different understandings about greatness, there is a wide and general definition of greatness in society no matter what country you are in and what time period you are in.

Generally, greatness can be defined by personal quality or public achievement. For example, there is a celebrity, Wen Tian Xiang, in Chinese history. He kept his loyalty to his nation even king of another nation could provide him money and reputation and political power. Finally, he died for his belief and values. But he would be remembered and admired by all the people from his nation and even by his enemies. Thousands of years had passed, his story was still told and taught by people over and over again. His outstanding personal qualities continued to move more people. Another example was Confucius. His thought and theory became the principle of Qing Dynasty and were taught to Chinese students from thousands of years ago. Even some foreign countries know him and introduce him to their people about his theory which is about kindness and peace. He is great because he has public achievements.

Apparently, only a few of us can become great people. But people need examples of greatness to pursue so that they can improve themselves by learning from great people.

Greatness is really hard to define because history is written by winner. For example, what will our history book say if Hitler won the war? He may be regarded as hero by following generations. The same people did the same thing, but the attitude toward him is different.

Who knows?