

4.8
pages
in
library
file

Fourth Year

Small Raynes on Great Books: (October to May 1961)

1 Confucius: The Analects, selections.

What you would not do to others,
Nor have them do to you,
You, yourself, Confucius wrote,
Should take care not to do.

2 Plato: The Republic, Bks. VI and VII

Philosophers, said Socrates,
Will some day rule the State,
For love and wisdom must succeed
If men but work and wait.

3 Aristophanes: Lysistrata; The Clouds

The plays of Aristophanes,
Though written long ago,
On sex and law, on peace and war,
With wit and wisdom glow.

4 Aristotle: Poetics

Analysis of tragedy
With ways to stir men's hearts
Make Aristotle's classic rules
Our standards in the arts.

5 Euclid: Elements of Geometry, Bk. I

When you want to solve a problem
Or prove a theory true,
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
If you'll follow Euclid's teachings
You'll know just what to do.

6 Marcus Aurelius: Meditations

Tranquility, in good or ill,
Aurelius believed,
Through self-control and reason,
Could always be achieved.

Fourth Year Great Books (Continued)

7 Sextus Empiricus: Outlines of Pyrrhonism, Bk. I

'Tis hard to know what to believe;
 Our senses often-times deceive:
 Opinions may have equal weight,
 And thus it's futile to debate.

8 Songs of the Volsungs and the Nibelungs

Weird tales of warlike tribes of yore
 The Volsungs loved to tell;
 Not right, but might, their slogan was,
 As loss before them fell.

9 St. Thomas Aquinas: On Truth and Falsity: qq 16-17
 from the Summa Theologica, I

Just what is truth? St Thomas asks,
 And struggles hard to find
 If truth is in the intellect
 Or in the thing defined.

10 Montaigne: Essays, Bk I, Chs. XL, XLII, XLIV, XLVI, XLX

~~XX~~
 What's wrong? What's right? What's true? What's false?
 According to Montaigne
 Man's knowledge is so limited
 Such quests are often vain.

11 Shakespeare: The Tempest

"Oh brave new world!" Miranda cried,
 On her enchanted isle,
 Where tempests brought both friend and foe
 Their feuds to reconcile.

12 Locke: An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Bk. III.
 XXXIII Chs. I, III, IX, XX.

Be careful in the use of words
 Right meanings to convey,
 Or else with wrong impressions
 Your readers go away.

13 Milton: Paradise Lost

A mighty drama Milton wrote,
That ranged from heaven to hell,
Describing how the Bible says
From innocence man fell.

14 Hume: An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding.

What you believe, and what is true,
Are often wide apart,
How mind and nature operate,
We've scarcely made a start.

15 Nietzsche: Beyond Good and Evil, Chs. I, III, V, VI, VII, IX.

A shattering philosophy,
With ruthless "Will to Power",
Designed to breed a "super-race"
To plunge the world in horror.

16 William James: Pragmatism, selections.

If men would really find the truth,
Of concepts small and great,
They must determine "if it works",
Before a law they state.

Mabel L. Rees