

The Eight Virtues of Bushido



V. Honesty and Sincerity

Without Honesty and Sincerity, Politeness is a farce and a show. “Politeness exaggerated,” wrote Masamune, “becomes a lie.” And Confucius wrote: “Sincerity is the end and the beginning of all things; without Sincerity there would be nothing.” Confucius spoke of Sincerity’s power to produce change without movement, to accomplish its purpose effortlessly, through its mere presence. In Chinese, one writes “Sincerity” by combining the characters for “Word” and “Perfect.”