

dà xué  
大 学

dà xué zhī dào zài míng míng dé zài qīn mǐn  
大学之道，在明明德，在亲民，  
zài zhǐ yú zhì shàn zhī zhǐ ér hòu yǒu dìng dìng ér hòu  
在止于至善。知止而后有定，定而后  
néng jìng jìng ér hòu néng ān ān ér hòu néng lǜ lǜ ér  
能静，静而后能安，安而后能虑，虑而  
hòu néng dé wù yǒu běn mò shì yǒu zhōng shǐ zhī suǒ  
后能得。物有本末，事有终始，知所  
xiān hòu zé jìn dào yǐ  
先后，则近道矣。

What the Great Learning teaches, is to illustrate illustrious virtue; to renovate the people; and to rest in the highest excellence.

The point where to rest being known, the object of pursuit is then determined; and, that being determined, a calm unperturbedness may be attained to. To that calmness there will succeed a tranquil repose. In that repose there may be careful deliberation, and that deliberation will be followed by the attainment of the desired end.

Things have their root and their branches. Affairs have their end and their beginning. To know what is first and what is last will lead near to what is taught in the Great Learning.

English Version by James Legge