



xiào

It is a poem in a character. And the character is 孝, the Chinese word for 'filial piety' or 'to love one's parents'. The poem is one of the poems in the Chinese Book of Filial Piety. To love one's parents is considered the first and the most important virtue of a person in our tradition.

fù mǔ ēn qíng sì hǎi

There are six pairs of sentences in this poem. It reads as follows: 父母恩情似海深 rén shēng mò wàng fù mǔ ēn

深, 人生莫忘父母恩。(As deep as the ocean, parents' love is not to be forgotten.) 生兒育女循環理 shì dài xiāng chuán zì gǔ jīn

。生兒育女循環理, 世代相傳自古今。(To bring up children is to fulfill the heavenly cycle which has been carried on from generation to

generation since the beginning of time.) 為人子女要孝順 wéi rén zǐ nǚ yào xiào shùn bù xiào zhī rén

罪逆天 zuì nì tiān。(Children simply have to love their parents; to do otherwise will be against God's will.)

pín jiā cái néng chū xiào zǐ niǎo shòu shàng zhī bǔ yù ēn

貧家才能出孝子, 鳥獸尚知哺育恩。(A poor family breeds loving kids; even birds and animals remember and repay what their parents have given

them.) 父子原是骨肉親 fù zǐ yuán shì gǔ ròu qīn diē niáng bù jìng jìng hé rén

。父子原是骨肉親, 爹娘不敬敬何人?(Between parents and kids is the kinship of blood, bone and flesh, which, if we do not respect, what else

in the world will we respect?) 養育之恩不圖報 yǎng yù zhī ēn bù tú bào wàng zǐ chéng lóng bái fèi xīn

心。(As kids, we must remember parents' love and repay them – otherwise, to expect our own dragon-kids to soar in the sky would only be a waste of time.)

On the right is a picture that shows the order (and direction) each part of this character is written. They are also the order and direction each part of the poem is written in the enlarged character.



