

Confucius Says

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The great Chinese sage, Confucius, retired from active preaching in his last years and settled in his native village. Some vacationing university students came to his village during this time, and the students flaunted their intelligence by daily arguing with Confucius.

Every time, the sage would outwit them with his wisdom. One scenario the university students brought to the sage follows:

One day, the student leader caught a sparrow. He told his friends, "I will hide this sparrow in my palm and ask the sage if the sparrow in my hands is dead or alive. If he says 'dead,' I will

open my hands and the sparrow will fly off. If he says 'alive,' I will just crush the bird to death and then open my hands. It will fall dead. Either way we can prove he was wrong."

Carried away by his logic, the group went to the sage and posed the question. The sage smiled and told the leader, "My son, when the answer is in your own hands, why do you ask me?"

I want to repeat the same to you: Safety is in your own hands. You control the outcome of every situation. Everyone is responsible for their safety and that of their shipmates. ☺

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