《吕新吾明职》
（明）吕 坤

士君子无济人利物之心，则希清华，慕通显，总之无益于苍生，听其求富贵可也。苟平生怀救民利物之心，欲朝兴一利，而朝即泽被闾阎。夕除一害，而夕即仁流市井。随事推恩，听我自便。因心出治，惟我施行，则莫妙于知州、知县矣。

夫朝廷设官，自公卿以至驿递，中外职衔，不啻百矣。而惟牧令，人称之曰"父母"。父母云者，生我养我者也。故土地不均，我为均之。差粮不明，我为明之。树木不植，我为植之。荒芜不垦，我为垦之。逃亡不复，我为复之。山林川泽果否有利，我为兴之。讼狱不平，我为平之。凶豪肆逞，良善含冤，我为除之。狡诈百端，愚朴受害，我为剪之。嫖风赌博，扛帮痴幼，我为刑之。寡妇孤儿，族属侮夺，我为镇之。盗贼劫窃，民生不安，我为弭之。老幼残疾，鳏寡孤独，我为收之。教化不行，风俗不美，我为正之。远里无师，贫儿失学，我为教之。仓廪不实，民命所关，我为积之。狱中囚犯，果否得所，我为恤之。斛斗秤尺，市镇为奸，我为一之。贫民交易，税课乱征，我为省之。衙门积蠹，狼虎舞民，我为逐之。吏书需索，刁勒吾民，我为禁之。征收无法，起解困民，我为处之。游手闲民，荡产废业，我为惩之。异端邪教，乱俗惑民，我为驱之。庸医乱行，民命枉死，我为训之。士风学政，颓败废弛，我为兴之。聚众党恶，主谋唆讼，我为殄之。火甲负累，乡夫骚扰，我为安之。某事久废当举，我为举之。某事及时当修，我为修之。民情所好，如己之欲，我为聚之。民情所恶，如己之仇，我为去之。使四境之内无一不得其宜，无一民不得其所。深山穷谷之中无陷弗达。妇人孺子之情无微不照。是谓知此州，是谓知此县。

The Missions of Official
By Lü Kun

Those scholars without the intention to do good to others only admire loftiness and nobility as well as high position and good reputation. They will not benefit the people but it is all right for them to only pursue their own wealth and position. Those who wish to do good to others hope that when they do something good in the morning, the benefit will be spread among the people that very morning and that if they get rid of an evil in the evening, their benevolence will be spread among the people that very evening. They show their benevolence at their own will whatever they do. The position of prefecture and county magistrates is the best one where a man can exercise his power at his own will.

There are over one hundred official positions, from high-ranking officials to messengers, but only prefecture and county magistrates are called "parent officials". Parents are those who give birth to and bring up children. Therefore, magistrates should do things that parents should do. As a magistrate, I will allocate the land equally and fairly, make the taxation in labor and grain clear, grow trees where they are needed, cultivate waste land, and help those who have been forced to escape from their homeland to come back. I will make use of mountains, forests, rivers and lakes. I will treat lawsuits justly, imposing stiff sentences to criminals and rectifying unjust verdicts. I will punish those who are sinister and crafty to help the innocent victims, and those who whore, gamble, form factions and bully the under aged. I will suppress any clan's bullying the widowed and the orphan, as well as theft and robbery; support the old, the under aged, the disabled, the sick, the widower, the widow, the orphan and the childless; and improve moralization and customs. I

will provide education even for those who live in remote areas and those who cannot afford it, have grain prepared and stored because it is closely related to the life of masses of people, show care about prisoners, unify the measurement on the market to avoid deception, and exempt the poor people from unnecessary taxes on their transactions. I will remove the officials who abuse their power from their office, forbid any official to blackmail the people or make things difficult for them, and punish those officials who extort excessive taxes and levies. I will punish those idle people who squander their family possessions, eliminate heresies undermining the people's morale, and teach incompetent physicians lessons so that no more people will die because of these physicians' improper treatment. I will improve social morality and set up schools. I will punish anyone who heads conspiracy or instigates a lawsuit, and remove any burden and disturbance that the local officials or villagers impose onto others. I will rejuvenate anything that should be rejuvenated and modify anything that should be modified, and help people to get what they like and get rid of what they dislike. In my region, everybody will feel comfortable and live a happy life because of my administration. All people, including those living in remote areas and women and children, will be taken good care of. Only in this way can I be called a magistrate who knows and administers his region well.

—Translated by Peng Ping[*]

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