

# Wisdom's Deviant Anomalies

## *Giving the nod to recurring social cruelties*

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<http://ftp.setterholm.com/WorldPeace/WisdomsDA.pdf>

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Preliminary definitions:

(per Merriam Webster, 1956)

**wisdom**, n. Quality of being wise; ability to judge soundly and deal sagaciously with facts, esp. as they relate to life and conduct; discernment and judgment; discretion; sagacity.

**deviant** = “deviate”

(sagacious: ~ wise)

**deviate**, adj. Characterized by or given to considerable departure from the norms of behavior in a given society.

**Anomaly**, n. Anything anomalous; something out of keeping, esp. with accepted notions of fitness or order.’

The wise men of old, and present-day wise people, had and have vested interests in making the label “wise” stick. Unfortunately, the wise have had a nasty habit of retaining a few deviant ideas within their collections of wise ideas. These anomalies diffuse objections to the cruelties that have riddled & disgraced human history down to the present day. An example is found in:

### *The Art of War & Other Classics of Eastern Philosophy*

©2016 Canterbury Classics

ISBN 9781626868021, printed in China

Read page 305, in “Confucian Analects”, Book XIII TSZE-LU, XVIII:

1. The Duke of Sheh informed Confucius, saying “Among us here there are those who may be styled upright in their conduct. If their father have stolen a sheep, they will bear witness to the fact.”

2. **Confucius said**, “Among us, in our part of the country, those who are upright are different from this. **The father conceals the misconduct of the son, and the son conceals the misconduct of the father. Uprightness is to be found in this.**”

This advice, which predates 500 BCE, has been ‘classic’ Chinese advice for 2500+ years: a family tradition of concealed misconduct would confer uprightness for generations. Many other Confucian sayings with plausible merits make this advice stand out as a deviant anomaly.

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Has the penetration of such anomalies into constructive social thought been grasped? Indeed so, in the astonishing book:

***The 48 Laws of Power***

©1998 Joost Elffers and Robert Greene

ISBN 978-0-14-028019-7 (pbk.)

The book could be subtitled:

***The revered mantras of perpetual human chaos***

Therein a complex & scholarly weave of detailed trans-national, trans-cultural, trans-millennial examples support the 48 laws. Consider the advocacy with the following reservations in mind:

Omission-induced neglect... not mentioning adverse consequences... enhances the seductiveness of any argument. While advocating a sociopath's nirvana, the 48 laws:

1. ignore the benefits of shared self-restraint,
2. mock lasting social cooperation,
3. quench constructive human thought,
4. feed on wars & human suffering,
5. nurture individual insecurity,
6. destroy reputations,
7. shred interpersonal love, &
8. empower every variety of extremist mindset.

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The present power struggle in Washington D.C. provides the vista of governance wherein abandoning self-restraint, embracing unbridled selfishness, dismissing useful competencies; bullying & nuclear brinkmanship, favoritism & nepotism, and baseless character assassinations are the transparent order of the day.

In recent memory, these same governance tendencies may have been slightly less transparent.

For the people who are addicted to power, the world of human souls resembles a vast cesspool. The objective is to bask in the sun... floating on an air mattress on top of the cesspool... occasionally holding one's nose to go down and bottom feed on the assets of those who failed to survive.

Mitigating sociopaths and improving human life on Earth are closely related challenges.