

No copyright materials are used in this text  
The summary and interpretation of the specific chapter and verses  
are from the Bible, they are religious text that is in the public  
domain.

Free to Copy and Distribute: Spread the Word!

(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺

[lokpeter@outlook.com](mailto:lokpeter@outlook.com)

Daily Rice 2023 October 1

YouTube Prayer Link

Reverence and obedience.

Reverence and obedience: an inner strength

Reverence and obedience, two seemingly opposite words, actually contain a profound philosophy of life. They are not just emotions and attitudes, but an inner force that can guide us to balance and grow in life.

Reverence is usually defined as reverence and admiration for authority, the natural world, life, and other things. It is a humbling emotion that makes us realize our smallness and insignificance in the universe. When we are in awe, we are more likely to appreciate the beauty of the world around us and more willing to protect it. Reverence teaches us to be grateful and understand that we need to take care of and respect what we have. In the pursuit of career success and material wealth, awe reminds us not to neglect inner balance and emotional enrichment.

The opposite is obedience, which is often interpreted as obedience, submission to authority, or acceptance of external rules and guidance. However, obedience does not mean losing oneself or blindly following. Rather, it is a wise choice, a decision we make in a particular situation. Obedience allows us to better integrate into society, work collaboratively, and help us receive guidance as we learn and grow. It is a sign of flexibility and intelligence, not weakness or lack of opinion.

Reverence and obedience complement each other in life and together shape our character. Reverence humbles us and gives us gratitude and helps us maintain inner peace and depth. Obedience, on the other hand, allows us to better adapt to the external environment, establish good interpersonal relationships, and get more opportunities and support. Combined, these two can help us succeed in life while maintaining clarity of mind and moral uphold.

However, reverence and obedience are not immutable principles. They require us to be flexible in different contexts and to make informed choices based on our hearts and values. Sometimes

we need to defy authority and stand up for our beliefs and values, and sometimes we need to follow the rules in order to better achieve our goals.

In summary, reverence and obedience are a pair of complementary forces that can help us find balance and direction in our lives. They remind us to respect nature and cherish life, but also to adapt to the outside world and live in harmony with others. Guided by reverence and obedience, we are able to better shape our lives toward a more meaningful and fulfilling future.

Christianity is a belief system that emphasizes the relationship between the individual and God, but also on mutual assistance and love between people. In the Christian faith, reverence and obedience are essential to God, representing not only a godly state of mind, but also guiding the interaction between the individual and the Creator.

First, reverence plays a key role in the Christian faith. God-fearing means reverence and admiration for God's authority and sanctity. This reverence is not a fear or fear, but a humble state of mind that acknowledges the great gap between humanity and God. Christians believe that God is the creator of the universe and the source of infinite wisdom and love. Therefore, reverence is a feeling of respect and gratitude that motivates believers to follow God's moral code and seek God's guidance and grace.

Second, obedience also has an important place in Christianity. Obedience to God's will is seen as an expression of love and trust in God. Christians believe that God's plan is the most perfect and noble, and therefore submitting to God's will is a wise choice. Obedience is not a coercive act, but a voluntary decision that demonstrates the believer's total dependence on God. This dependence brings inner peace and direction in life.

In Christianity, Jesus Christ is seen as a model of obedience. Jesus' mission on earth was to accomplish the Father's will, and His life was devoted to teaching people to obey God and love their neighbors as themselves. His willingness to bear the cross and die for the sins of mankind embodies the ultimate in obedience. Christians look to Jesus' life as an example and strive to emulate His obedience and love.

However, there is also a concept of balance in Christianity. Believers are encouraged to maintain an intimate relationship with God while obeying Him. This means that God is not only the Creator and Ruler, but also the father and friend of believers. This relationship is based on faith, prayer, and spirituality that emphasizes the balance of fear and closeness to God.

In summary, reverence and obedience represent the relationship between the individual and God in the Christian faith. Reverence expresses humility and admiration, and obedience expresses trust and love. These two concepts are intertwined and together shape the Christian faith life, leading them to seek God's will and live for God's kingdom. This response of reverence and obedience not only profoundly affected the personal lives of believers, but also spread the message of love and peace in society, becoming an important part of the Christian faith.

There are many verses in the Bible that address the concepts of reverence and obedience that provide guidance on how to respond to God's guidance and authority.

Awe:

Psalm 111:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; This passage emphasizes that the fear of God is the starting point of wisdom and leads us on the right path.

Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Most Holy is wisdom." This passage further emphasizes that the fear of God is the foundation of wisdom.

2 Corinthians 7:1 "Having these promises, dear brothers, let us cleanse ourselves, remove all filth from body and soul, fear God, and be sanctified." This verse reminds us that the fear of God is part of holiness.

Obedience:

Matthew 16:24 "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.' This is Jesus' teaching on obedience, asking believers to put aside their desires and submit to God's will.

James 4:7 "Therefore obey God against the devil, and the devil will leave you and flee." This passage emphasizes that obedience to God enables us to resist the temptations of the devil.

Hebrews 12:9, "Besides, we have a biological Father who disciplined us, and we still honor Him, and not be more obedient to the Father of all spirits?" This verse reminds us that obedience to God is for spiritual life.

These verses are part of the Bible about fear and obedience, and they provide guidance to Christians on how to respond to God's will and authority in their daily lives.

## We pray together

Dear Heavenly Father,

We humbly come to you thankful for your presence and guidance in our lives. We thank you for giving us the power to fear and obey, to know you more deeply, and to respond more genuinely to your will.

Help us to live in awe. Let us be aware of your greatness and holiness every day and thus maintain a state of humility and gratitude. Teach us how to love everything you have created, protect nature, care for others, and maintain inner balance. Let reverence guide our daily lives and lead us on the path of justice and morality.

At the same time, strengthen our obedience. Help us to let go of our selfish desires and ego in order to submit to your will. Let us imitate Jesus Christ, take up the cross, and submit to your plan. As we face life's challenges and temptations, give us the will and confidence to always submit to your path.

Heavenly Father, we know that in reverence and obedience we can find true freedom and peace. We pray for your grace and wisdom to help us stand firm in your path in a world full of change and difficulties.

Glory to your name, and may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We pray all this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen..

## Numbers chapter 19

Nu. 19:1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron:

Nu. 19:2 “This is a requirement of the law that the LORD has commanded: Tell the Israelites to bring you a red heifer without defect or blemish and that has never been under a yoke.

Nu. 19:3 Give it to Eleazar the priest; it is to be taken outside the camp and slaughtered in his presence.

Nu. 19:4 Then Eleazar the priest is to take some of its blood on his finger and sprinkle it seven times towards the front of the Tent of Meeting.

Nu. 19:5 While he watches, the heifer is to be burned — its hide, flesh, blood and offal.

Nu. 19:6 The priest is to take some cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet wool and throw them onto the burning heifer.

Nu. 19:7 After that, the priest must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water. He may then come into the camp, but he will be ceremonially unclean till evening.

Nu. 19:8 The man who burns it must also wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he too will be unclean till evening.

Nu. 19:9 “A man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and put them in a ceremonially clean place outside the camp.

They shall be kept by the Israelite community for use in the

water of cleansing; it is for purification from sin.

Nu. 19:10 The man who gathers up the ashes of the heifer must also wash his clothes, and he too will be unclean till evening. This will be a lasting ordinance both for the Israelites and for the aliens living among them.

Nu. 19:11 “Whoever touches the dead body of anyone will be unclean for seven days.

Nu. 19:12 He must purify himself with the water on the third day and on the seventh day; then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third and seventh days, he will not be clean.

Nu. 19:13 Whoever touches the dead body of anyone and fails to purify himself defiles the LORD’s tabernacle. That person must be cut off from Israel. Because the water of cleansing has not been sprinkled on him, he is unclean; his uncleanness remains on him.

Nu. 19:14 “This is the law that applies when a person dies in a tent: Anyone who enters the tent and anyone who is in it will be unclean for seven days,

Nu. 19:15 and every open container without a lid fastened on it will be unclean.

Nu. 19:16 “Anyone out in the open who touches someone who has been killed with a sword or someone who has died a natural death, or anyone who touches a human bone or a grave, will be unclean for seven days.

Nu. 19:17 “For the unclean person, put some ashes from the burned purification offering into a jar and pour fresh water over them.

Nu. 19:18 Then a man who is ceremonially clean is to take some hyssop, dip it in the water and sprinkle the tent and all the furnishings and the people who were there. He must also sprinkle anyone who has touched a human bone or a grave or someone who has been killed or someone who has died a natural death.

Nu. 19:19 The man who is clean is to sprinkle the unclean person on the third and seventh days, and on the seventh day he is to purify him. The person being cleansed must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and that evening he will be clean.

Nu. 19:20 But if a person who is unclean does not purify himself, he must be cut off from the community, because he has defiled the sanctuary of the LORD. The water of cleansing has not been sprinkled on him, and he is unclean.

Nu. 19:21 This is a lasting ordinance for them. “The man who sprinkles the water of cleansing must also wash his clothes, and anyone who touches the water of cleansing will be unclean till evening.

Nu. 19:22 Anything that an unclean person touches becomes unclean, and anyone who touches it becomes unclean till evening.”

Chapter 19 of the Book of Numbers in the Christian Bible outlines the ritual of the red heifer, which is used to purify people who have come into contact with a dead body. The red heifer is a perfect animal that has never been yoked and is sacrificed outside the camp. Its ashes are mixed with water to create a purification solution that is sprinkled on the person who needs to be purified. The chapter emphasizes the importance of purity and the seriousness of coming into contact with death, as well as the power of ritual and symbolism in the Israelite religion. The chapter also serves as a reminder that the Israelites are set apart as a holy people and must follow certain regulations in order to maintain their purity and relationship with God. Overall, the chapter emphasizes the need for spiritual and physical cleanliness in the Israelite community, and the importance of following God's instructions in maintaining that cleanliness.

Here are some of the key verses from chapter 19 of the Book of Numbers in the Christian Bible:

- "The Lord said to Moses and Aaron: 'This is a requirement of the law that the Lord has commanded: Tell the Israelites to bring you a red heifer without defect or blemish and that has never been under a yoke.'" - Numbers 19:1-2
- "The man who burns it must also wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he too will be unclean till evening." - Numbers 19:10
- "This is a lasting ordinance for them: 'The man who sprinkles the water of cleansing must also wash his clothes, and anyone who touches the water of cleansing will be unclean till evening.'" - Numbers 19:21

Chapter 19 describes the ritual of the red heifer, which is used to purify people who have become ritually unclean through contact with death. The ashes of the heifer are mixed with water to create the water of cleansing, which is sprinkled on those who need to be purified. This ritual is considered a lasting ordinance for the Israelites.

Chapter 19 of the Book of Numbers introduces the purification ritual involving the red heifer. Here's a reflection on some key themes and lessons from Numbers 19:

**The Need for Ritual Purification:** The chapter describes the importance of the purification ritual involving a red heifer. This ritual was necessary to cleanse individuals who had come into contact with a dead body or had been defiled in some way.

**Reflection:** This chapter reminds us of the significance of ritual purification in the Old Testament. It teaches us that sin and defilement require a cleansing process. While we no longer observe the specific rituals mentioned in Numbers 19, this chapter prompts us to recognize the need for spiritual purification and seek forgiveness and cleansing from God through the atoning work of Jesus Christ.

**The Red Heifer as a Symbol:** The red heifer used in the purification ritual was required to be without blemish and never yoked. Its ashes, mixed with water, were used to create a cleansing solution.

**Reflection:** This chapter highlights the symbolism of the red heifer. The heifer without blemish represents purity and serves as a type or foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, who was sinless and offered Himself as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. The ashes mixed with water symbolize the purifying power of the blood of Christ that cleanses us from sin.

**The Need for Faith and Obedience:** The chapter emphasizes the importance of faith and obedience in following the instructions for the purification ritual. The Israelites were required to gather the ashes of the red heifer and use them for cleansing according to God's commands.

**Reflection:** This chapter teaches us the importance of faith and obedience in our relationship with God. It reminds us that God provides the means of cleansing and purification, but we must exercise faith and follow His instructions. By trusting in God's provision and obeying His commands, we can experience His cleansing and restoration in our lives.

**The Power of Sacrifice:** The red heifer used in the purification ritual was sacrificed outside the camp. Its blood represented the atoning sacrifice for sin, and its ashes became the source of cleansing.

**Reflection:** This chapter underscores the power of sacrifice in dealing with sin and defilement. It points us to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, whose blood cleanses us from all sin. It reminds us that true purification and forgiveness require the sacrifice of a blameless substitute.

Overall, Numbers 19 addresses themes of ritual purification, symbolism, faith and obedience, and the power of sacrifice. By reflecting on these themes, we can recognize our need for spiritual purification, embrace the symbolism of Jesus Christ as our ultimate sacrifice, exercise faith and obedience in following God's instructions, and experience the cleansing and forgiveness offered through His sacrifice.