

**CONFUCIAN THOUGHT ON GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION: A PHILOSOPHICAL
AGGIORNAMENTO FOR NIGERIA'S ETHICALLY BEREFT LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING**

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ABSTRACT

Moral debasement is defined as the decline or corruption of ethical standard and principles, has long plagued both Nigerian leadership and education sector. Even in this Fourth Republic which has lasted for twenty six years, corruption and bad leadership continue to hinder the nation's development. Due to lack of transparent electoral process, Nigerians have consistently been subjected to ineffective leadership, which has contributed significantly to the country's current state. After twenty-six years of uninterrupted democracy, the dividends of democracy are still largely absent. There is no functional or quality education system, consistent electricity supply, pipe born water, good road infrastructure or efficient health care services. Many individuals entrusted with the leadership role lack a clear understanding of their responsibilities and high expectations attached to public services. Nigerian Politics has become a lucrative enterprise characterized by lawlessness and impunity as accountability is rare. Some executive leaders such as the president enjoy immunity from prosecution, even post tenure – an aspect of the constitution that undermines justice and democratic principles. The political class in Nigeria often appears to lack a moral compass or code of conduct, engaging in unethical practices and embracing a 'might is right' mindset reminiscent of Machiavellian philosophy. Using analytic and evaluative philosophical methodologies, this study draws on the teachings of Chinese philosopher, Confucius, particularly his views on governance and education. Confucius emphasized that moral character should be the foundation for both effective government and education. If Nigerian leaders would first rectify their personal values, hearts and family life, effective leadership would naturally follow, paving the way for national development and progress.

Key Words: Government, Education, Philosophy, Nigeria, Aggiornamento, Ethics, and Moral character.

INTRODUCTION

In this June 12, 2025 (democracy day) Nigerians celebrated 26th years of uninterrupted or unbroken democracy in Nigeria. The president Tinubu cancelled official celebration as if he knew there is indeed nothing to celebrate. Nigerian leaders have not understood that leadership calls for service or sacrifice (servant Leadership). Reflecting critically on the Nigeria democracy, one sees it is under strain and it's not improving. Voter apathy is speedily growing as the people no more have confidence that their votes count. One sees imposition of leadership by president Tinubu. Example is the removal or suspension of Rivers state executive governor from office and replacing him with retired naval officer and the suspension of the state house members as well. This is against the constitution or the rule of the law of the country that says that civilian leaders should be chosen by the people, as democracy is defined as the government of the people, by the people and for the people. One sees the fundamental elements of democracy in danger, no free and fair elections, no transparent processes or electoral process, no accountability in governance and the wind of autocracy or authoritarianism is strong in Nigerian democratic government and in some part of Africa as of moment. In these mist feelings, one may tend to ask which ideology is then better for Africans and Nigeria inclusive. Looking at Nigerian present situation, it is evident that numerous democratic dividends – such as pipe borne water, good access roads and basic infrastructures, well equipped hospitals, reliable electricity, and quality education – have eluded the country and its citizens due to corruption and poor leadership. Worst still, at the moment Nigeria is experiencing insecurity at its peak through some terrorists groups: Boko Haram and especially by Fulani herdsmen terrorists and other groups. Added to insecurity is poverty portrayed by acute recession. The remote cause of all these is lack of patriotic spirit, lack of quality leaders and leadership. Nigerian leaders have not rectified their thoughts, hearts and family and family names. The citizens need such rectification as well so as to be good followers and never to be induced by material gifts and cause such bad leaders to emerge in power again. Confucius teaches that a leader should first rectify his thoughts, heart and family, so as to render selfless service.

In education, Nigerian government have failed woefully in this sector as they never knew that knowledge is power and thus, have not invested more in education. Confucius thoughts in education will first help Nigerian education to be meaningful and recover its moral character. Confucius, born around 551 BC was a Chinese Philosopher and teacher who lived during the time of significant political instability and social unrest and upheaval in China. Living in a time

of chaotic and violent time, he sought to establish ethical and social standards to restore harmony and order, which formed the basis of Confucianism, a philosophical system that has influenced Chinese and East Asian cultures for centuries. He was born into the family of the shi class, which was between the aristocrats and the commoners, and experienced poverty after his father's death. His teaching extends to so many areas of life. We now, do explication of some terminologies, expose Confucius' thoughts on government and on education, and plunge into deep analysis.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS:

AGGIORNAMENTO is an Italian word meaning "updating or bringing up to date", refreshing. In the context of Catholic Church, it specifically refers to the process of modernizing the church's methods, ideas, and practices to better suit contemporary times. It was the key concept associated with Pope John the XXIII and the second Vatican Council.¹ In the same sense and meaning, it's to call Nigerian government to philosophically or logically update or give remedy to Nigerian ethically bereft governance and education by adopting good ideas and better practices portrayed in Confucian doctrine.

NIGERIA – The most populous country in Africa and it is located at the western coast of Africa. It is bordered to the north by Niger, to the east by Chad and Cameroon, to the South by the gulf of Guinea of Atlantic Ocean, and to the West by Benin Republic. Nigeria came into being in 1914, through the amalgamation of British Northern and Southern protectorates by Fredrick Lugard. Nigeria has over 250 ethnic groups lumped together without consideration of the aftermath. Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba are the major tribes and we have other prominent tribes like: Fulani, Ibibio, Efik and the likes. Almost since her Independence in 1960, bad leadership and corruption have been its greatest challenges to development till date.

PHILOSOPHICAL ASSESSMENT, MORALITY/ETHICS AND MORAL FORMATION

Philosophy: Philosophers are not in agreement on the meaning of philosophy. Philosophy is a critical reflection on the realities in the universe; this includes the human person himself or herself. For C. B. Okolo, philosophy is a "critical enterprise, something dynamic, a quest, a search . . . , a spirit of evaluative inquiry into all area of human experience, of the world in which we live, of man himself and his place in the universe."² He further contends that it is the duty of philosophy to give a "coherent and systematic account of the multifaceted universe of being and knowledge of what is, and how man knows it."³ This implies that philosophy covers every aspect of human endeavors. In other words, it studies the whole of reality. Thus, it is most ambitious. In other words, a philosophical assessment is to apply the tools of critique and objective scrutiny in its assessment of its subject matter. The focus here is on government and education in Nigeria, reason behind bad leadership and poor state in education sector in Nigeria, lack of practical education and how to get quality education and good government as well.

Morality is thought pertaining to the conduct of human affairs and relations between persons. Hare, in his 'Language of Morals' defined morality as "an active process which is the effort to guide one's conduct by reason, that is, doing what there are justified reasons for doing while giving equal considerations to the interests of all those affected by what one does."⁴ By morality, we are referring to a set of personal or social standards for good or bad behavior or the principle concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behavior. Moral formation is the training or education given to children or youths, thus shaping them according to the moral norms or customs of the society. This is obtainable when fundamental moral agents like parents, teachers, pastors /priests through the knowledge of Christian ethics or moral philosophy mould children's and youths' characters through some ethical principles. On Ethics, Peschke, writes:

Ethics { which is also referred to as moral philosophy } is a branch of philosophy that studies morality and prudence. Ethics deals with the rightness and wrongness of human conduct. It judges when man's action is freely, knowingly and deliberately performed. Philosophical ethics or moral philosophy endeavors to mould a person's character and to establish guiding principles for moral life.⁵

So, here we are talking of molding children's or youth's character in a good way and this is moral formation. The word ethics originates from Greek character ethos, which means habit, custom or character.⁶ Reformation according to Oxford learner's dictionary simply means "an act of improving or changing someone or something for better".⁷ Formation and reformation of many Nigerians leaders and politicians to good governance through moral character and Nigerian youths and children towards moral and practical education for productivity. .

CONFUCIUS' THOUGHTS ON GOVERNMENT

Confucius believes in a government based on moral principles and virtue rather than force or legalistic rules. He advocates for a ruler who leads by example, fostering a society where individuals are encouraged to act with virtue and adhere to proper social order.⁸ This helps leaders to be upright and self cultivated, setting an example for others to follow.⁹ In a similar articulation, he emphasizes on the importance of a ruler with moral character, leading by examples and exemplary virtue and social rituals, rather than laws and punishment. He emphasizes the importance of moral leaders and virtuous society with people having a sense of shame and self improvement.¹⁰ He says that when one rules by means of virtue, it is like North Star, it dwells in its place and the other stars pay reverence to it.¹¹ He prioritizes the rulers personal virtue and moral example as the most crucial factor in effective governance.

Confucius also talks on the importance of social order and rituals (LI) in maintaining a harmonious society and these rituals provide frame work to social interaction and help to define roles and responsibilities.¹² He believes that a ruler should be a role model for their people, demonstrating the virtues for his subjects to emulate.¹³ On self cultivation, he believes that rulers should focus on their own personal development and this self cultivation is the key to effective leadership, and by becoming virtuous individuals, rulers can lead their people towards a more just and harmonious society.¹⁴

This is really what politics and leadership should be like, but this has no locus or place in Nigerian democratic leadership and politics as corruption has eaten deep into them. Nigerian government and politicians are corrupt; their democratic process is also bad. Nigeria is still too far in realizing good governance and the ideals of democracy as its electoral or democratic process is still characterized by monetization of politics, one party hegemony and lopsided representative system. In Nigerian political reality, there is multiplication of ballot papers, stealing of ballot boxes and there exist grass electoral malpractices in order to win election, inflation of population census where electoral staffs admit people across the border as national identity and citizenship issue are not seriously checked. There are distribution of money, gifts and other promises of future material benefits just to buy people's conscience. These are Nigerian political realities or realism. There is a lot of dirty games in Nigerian democracy and is seen as a warfare. And is good to ask: Can an honest man practice honest politics in Nigeria? Although, there seems to be slight improvement in 2023 election, as there was introduction of bimodal voter accreditation system (BVAS) machine for authentication and transfer of result from the polling booths. electronic/computer registration and real counting of citizen's votes in some places, but there were still so many irregularities: Manipulation of beavers machine by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), disenfranchisements of genuine voters by thugs, paid policemen and even by military men. Thus, the hope of authentic process and dividends of democracy are still very far. When one calculates the years of independence and democratic government, (military intervention notwithstanding) one sees that Nigerian leaders have not meet up with the basic human needs of its citizen, not to talk of fundamental human rights and freedom/liberty opted by democratic ideology. Corruption has been the bane of Nigerian politics and political leaders. Unlike their western counterparts, democratic parties and expected benefits have made very sad news for Nigeria. Even when retreats for good governance is being organized for top government officials governors, senators, house of representative members, among others, to learn virtues, their major interest lies in the large allowances and bonuses and largesse that will be shared to them for attending such gatherings and not in the reformation exercise. They are very much attuned to Machiavellian politics, hence a noble need for reformation of Nigerian politics and politicians to embrace moral character.

NECESSARY AGGIORNAMENTO (UPDATING) AND REMEDY FOR NIGERIAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

When some of the areas mentioned below are reformed, Nigerian politicians will have no option than to reform themselves as well and follow the rule of the law or the election process for any office one is vying for.

Constitutional Electoral Reform: This is overdue as the masses or the electorates have been calling for this and to no avail. There should be a transparent process of winning election in Nigeria and this is the work of INEC, so as avoid the problem of one candidate winning all the polling boots and another is being declared the winner by the INEC, as it was the case in Nigeria 2023 presidential election. This lack of transparency in election process is the real cause of voter apathy as majority of the electorate will not come out to vote when they knew their votes will not count. The process should be transparent for everyone to see.

Encourage participatory Governance: Democracy is called participatory democracy right from its origin in ancient Greece or Greek city states (polis) where men gather at the Agora to debate on some important affairs and it's the same in African traditional communal settings of yester years. Nigerian democracy is a representative democracy owing great population involved, but project recommendations and system of public input in policy making should be created. Constituency democracy ought to be maintained, where there is town hall meetings and project reports published for public scrutiny.

Promotion of Meritocracy over Nepotism: Since All Progressive Party (APC) government started ruling in 2015, nepotism in public appointments came to its climax, even in this present Tinubu's government, meritocracy is not yet promoted and the result is always inefficiency in various sectors. Example could be seen in appointment of minister for education as from 2015.

Youth Inclusion in Governance: This has been the African problem as in Nigerian present kakistocracy (where the worst individual, or least competent is ruling) and gerontocracy where old men that should have retired from public service and are competing to rule and worst is they have no moral character and care less about good leadership and service, but they continue to loot the nations' treasury. Good and honest youths should be included in governance as they are leaders of tomorrow that can start from today.

Strengthen Democratic Institutions: Here, we mean the independent institutions like INEC, Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), and the Judiciary. The president should stop unnecessary inducement and interference in their work as they should be independent, and do the work of checks and balance. Judiciary should be the hope of the common man and should be independent of the Nigerian president.

Implement strict Anti-corruption Measures: To reduce corruption in matters of work and in payments, the government should subscribe to pay direct, and E-payments or digital payments. Certainly, Integrated Personnel and payroll Information System (IPPIS) has been established, but it's not fully delivering, especially in the university system nowadays where after payments through IPPIS, the university sorts it again before paying the individual lecturers. This is bad, they should pay direct as corruption is still everywhere.

Civic Education and Leadership Training: This is very essential both on the part of the leaders and on the part of the citizens. Leaders should know about stewardship and servant leadership and rectification of thoughts, hearts and family while the citizens have to know their civic rights, duties and responsibilities.

Reduction on the cost of governance: Corruption comes in here owing to embezzlement of public fund, but when the cost of governance is reduced, government posts will be less attractive and competitive, and a dedicated individual can then come out and serve the public with moral probity and accountability. As Nigerians are into serious recession, a good government should reduce the exotic cost of governance.

CONFUCIUS THOUGHTS ON EDUCATION

Confucius emphasize on the importance of education for personal growth and societal well being, advocating for a system that is accessible to all, regardless of social status. He believes that education should cultivate virtue, promote social harmony and develop individuals into capable leaders.¹⁵ The basis of Confucian teaching is raising individual of virtue that would assist in the administration of the realm. Moral instruction for him should therefore take pride of the place and to avoid the pitfall of the past, he reshapes the erstwhile moral concepts to meet the need of the future. His Ethics, Philosophy and Politics are interwoven; he drafted the book of Odes, history, rites, music, changes, and spring and Autumn Annals. They dwelt on social relations and ethics, also focused on Philosophy, History, Politics, Economics, culture and music.

Confucius stress on universal access to education as he believed that education should be available to everyone, not just the privileged classes.¹⁶ On moral education, he stresses on the importance of cultivating moral character, emphasizing virtues like benevolence, righteousness, propriety and wisdom.¹⁷ This sector is very important as it is connected with the highest teaching of Confucius, the rectification of names, hearts and thoughts as this plays a great role in the formation of the youths, the leaders of today and tomorrow. Moral education does the work of rectification, it rectifies knowledge, and knowledge rectifies the thought and thought does the same to the heart and the in turn does the same to oneself and oneself be then equipped for rectification of the family and through good family the state or empire or the nation is now rectified. In Nigeria, the government is not serious with religious education and even at one time one minister of education tried on his own to remove it from the curriculum, but he did not succeed as religious education and moral instruction is still basic as children and youths are been molded through these teachings.

On ritual, he highlights the significance of ritual and proper conduct in society, believing that these practices could shape behavior and foster social harmony.¹⁸ On individual learning, he advocated for teaching methods that would cater to the individual learning styles and abilities of students.

On important of Teacher, he recognizes the crucial role of teachers in guiding students and fostering their development, emphasizing respect for teachers and the value of their wisdom. So, good teacher is indispensable to education and a good teacher should be passionate about teaching and committed conscientiously to work. He asserts that the best results were achieved from students when the teacher know them well and understood their psychological peculiarities. This is excellent, but not minding that Confucius gave out these teachings in ancient period, but some African countries are still joking with the role of teachers in teaching and learning situation. Nigerian case is something else, as teachers are not better paid and in some instances, they are owed salaries for years. The lecturers at the higher institutions are not exempted as in some universities (Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, for example) some lecturers are being owed three, four, and even five years salaries and arrear as well.¹⁹ The corrupt leaders in power are not even thinking along that side, though the president still goes on borrowing money, buys private jets and more bullet proof cars for himself and the minister, senators and house of representative members and he even borrow and they share among themselves without thinking of investment and productivity.

On lifelong learning, he holds, it should be a continuous process and not just a fixed period of schooling. He emphasized an importance of self reflection and on-going study to improve one's character and knowledge.²⁰ On holistic education, he advocates for a well rounded education that encompasses not only academic subjects but also practical skills, artistic appreciation and ethical understanding.²¹ Holistic education is an innovation to be copied as it will help the youths to be self employed owing to knowledge of practical skills and it will as well help them to become young entrepreneurs. It is worthy to note that Africa education has been like this before the introduction of western education in African. Western education introduced in Africa is theory based and it helps the youths to acquire government bureaucratic works in government offices and beyond. But holistic education as it has been in African apprenticeship system through its 'learning and doing' helps the youths to be self employed owing to mastery of skills. This is the real problem with Nigerian education nowadays.

NECESSARY AGGIORNAMENTON (UPDATING) FOR QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING IN NIGERIA

Free Education at all level: This is mostly needed in the country and from the basic school through the University as this will reduce students drop out of school. Nigeria is a very rich country, but it's her leaders that destroy it through corruption and bad leadership. This appeal was made to Tinubu by academic staff union of universities (ASUU) in May, 2023 as he was assuming his office, but he paid deaf ear to that and proclaimed the era of students' loan which is a real scam as it's never accessible to all the students especially to the students of the Southern part of the country and South East in particular.

Payment of Teachers Salaries, Allowances, Gratuities and Pensions: The ancient philosophers like Socrates and Plato hold that Knowledge is virtue and knowledge is power. Education plays enviable role in nation's development, and to get good and quality education, teachers are indispensable. For teachers to be committed, they must be paid and must be paid well. Teachers or professors are supposed even to be paid more than politicians or anyone else as they carry and educate the most sensitive part of the populace, that's the children and the youths, the potential leaders of tomorrow and. this is how it's done in the European countries, consideration is first given to the children, ladies or women and the vulnerable adults. The government has to see that teachers are adequately paid.

Provision of Instructional Materials: Government should provide instructional material in the schools. Instructional materials are those devices, or things that facilitate learning. It helps the teacher to teach well and the learner to learn well. United nations educational, scientific and cultural organization (UNESCO) made emphasis on this and made it a cause for concern and work in science education, while seeing steady decline in enrollment of young people in science courses.²² we have hard and soft wares, projected and non projected, print and electronic media, visual, audio and audio-visual. And owing to innovational trends, nowadays, it is very easy for teacher to select once best suited for easy teaching and learning of a particular subject. However, consideration is done basing on the clarity, legibility, simplicity, relevancy, durability, portability, manageability, flexibility, adequacy, storability and operative easiness.

Introduction of Entrepreneurial Skill Acquisition: This area has made a gigantic move in so many countries in Africa. For example in Burkina Faso, Ibrahim Traore has made education 100 percent practical and he is geared towards quality education and advancing other sectors as well. Nigerian government should emulate his leadership and

promote entrepreneurial skill acquisition in schools through vocational training. It's true government do organize entrepreneurial skills acquisition, for youths to be employers of labour but most times it's geared towards self enrichment as some political appointees that organize such on behalf of government are corrupt. Youths can only be sure of their benefits when a genuine philanthropists and faith based organization are organizing theirs. Establishment of youths' skill acquisition centers, vocational training centers, and conducting youths empowerment programs will raise many youths and families from poverty to prosperity, thus development is assured. Students should be trained in music, clothing, farming, poultry, metal fabrication, fishery and others.

Building Blocks or Structures: This is to make teaching-learning environments conducive. The government should see that new schools, classroom or lecture hall blocks and administrative blocks, hostels, library, ICT units are constructed. Bodies like UNESCO, UNISEF, UBE, ASUBEB (in Anambra for example), school parents teachers association or dialogue, Old boys Association, Religious Association, Families, philanthropists can help out.

Adult Education: Government needs to make provision for this as no one is too old to learn. UNESCO declared it that adult education can help tackle pressing economic, social and environmental challenges. Yet, too many adults still lack adequate learning opportunities. Promoting stronger adult learning and education policies and practices in UNESCO member states is a core mission of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning.²³

Introduction of Continuing Education Program (CEP): Government needs to improve on this program. It is a kind of post secondary learning program and it includes degree credit courses, by young and adult students, business men and women that haven't opportunity for regular program. It is also available in universities, polytechnics and collage of education.

Great emphasis on Education of Women: UNESCO agenda on education of African girls is a meaningful project. UNESCO lists women and Africa as priority areas for development, thus science education aims not only to generate a more science oriented youths but places particular emphasis on the education of girls. It also hopes to have a positive impact on economic and social development by influencing teachers and curriculum planners.²⁴ In the olden days, one used to hear that "women's education ends in kitchen" but with the number of African women professors and doctorate degree holders nowadays, is quite obvious that women are out numbering men as far as teaching learning is concerned. This is evident with Nigerian experience, where the number of female students in the tertiary institutions and number of females teaching in nursery, primary and secondary schools surpasses that of males with a good margin. However, low salary payment to teachers and lecturers by Nigerian government and private school proprietors contributed more to this.

Introduction of Environmental Education (and Ecological Sciences): This is to ensure improvement in the quality of life of all people and their environment. Environmental education is key for respecting nature and for achieving international agenda including Millennium Developmental Goals (MDGs), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to combat Desertification (UNCCD) and United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD, 2005-2014).

Pedagogical Process and Teaching Qualification: Government should employ only qualified teachers, so upgrading of certificates or qualifications is necessary. "Pedagogy is concerned with the art of teaching is generally seen as a systematized and planned effort to impart knowledge to one who requires it, usually by one who not only possesses that knowledge, but also is qualified to impart such knowledge."²⁵

Curriculum/Syllabus and in System of Education: Government should see to modernization of curriculum or syllabus after some years owing to aggiornamento, that is, to update what is in the system before and make it current. Sometimes the whole system needs to be changed. For example in Nigeria, there was change from 6-3-3-4 system to idea of basic education 9-3-4 system, and latest is 12-3 system and all these changes are geared towards quality education.

Educational Evaluation and Supervision: Government should appoint capable individuals to handle evaluation of students on the side left for government, example is JAMB. The committee has been messing up the system for years now while exhausting a huge amount of money each year. In classroom or lecture hall communication, using cyclic model, the teacher teaches the students through various media. He gives assignment or evaluates them through examination and equally gets feed back through their scripts. Now, we can see there are a lot of innovations pertaining to students' evaluation. Apart from teacher made test, achievement and certification test that are common, we see, innovations by introduction of continuous assessment test and even ranking test like Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) and post UTME. And finally in supervision, there are updates on how to carry out both clinical supervision and quality assurance. All these innovations and novelties have really something to offer.

Distant learning: Government should support schools to engage in distant learning through virtual learning environment. Distance Learning is another mile stone evolving from adult learning and education. Owing to quick

advancement in the area of ICT, some of the programs mentioned above in adult learning and in CEP can be done on campus as well as online, thus, emergence of Online-Education in Africa.

Introduction of Virtual learning: Government should support schools to engage in virtual learning. It's is distant learning conducted in a virtual learning environment with electronic learning or study content designed for self- paced (asynchronous) or live web-conferencing (synchronous) online teaching and tutoring.²⁶ This virtual learning, through the help of computer and internet is now made popular, even in Africa, owing to COVID 19 pandemic.

EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

Thus far, we have been examining Master Confucius' special thoughts on government and education which hold great significance in the analects - a revealed text containing his teachings and doctrines. His emphasis on traditional customs is profound, as he firmly believed that customs were essential to achieving peace and societal harmony. Confucius deserves special commendation for his contribution to the growth of Philosophy, and the development of rational enquiry, particularly in the areas of ethics, Politics, Religion and Education and other aspects of human life. He has left a lasting legacy not only for China but all of humanity through these teachings. The lesson drawn from his philosophy serves as an eye opener for African citizens encouraging them to demand accountability from their leaders and aspire toward quality education and morally grounded governance.

Though Confucius lived many years ago, he illumined our paths to understanding as few have done in the past. As we recount his thoughts in diverse fields, we perceived how little of him must be erased today because of the growth of knowledge and the change of circumstance. He still offers us guidance today, especially for countries like Nigeria that appear fixated on bad government, leadership without morality and on unproductive education and education without discipline or moral character. If the government of today will focus on holistic education for the citizen, many problems will be solved. And in dealing with all round education for Nigerians, that is, education for the whole man or for the whole person, for holistic development or advancement, a premium is placed on the development of human mind or cultivation of the mind which is seen to be fundamental of all developments – man is to be educated or advanced holistically or integrally: in social, religious, political, intellectual and other perspectives. Finally, when we talk about education, advancement, development, cultivation and rectification, we refer to the holistic cultivation of the entire person – across all facets, institutions, sectors, practices and values (including moral or ethical values), when all these segments are properly educated, informed, formed and reformed, both the Nigerian government and its citizens will naturally become better and more effective.

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