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## A Disquisition on Friendship: The “Guang ‘Jue jiao lun’” 廣絕交論 of Liu Jun 劉峻

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When the renowned scholar Ren Fang 任昉 passed away in Dongyang 東陽 (modern Jinhua 金華, Zhejiang) in 508 CE, his old friend Liu Jun 劉峻, who had just taken up office in this area, discovered Ren Fang’s sons were homeless and destitute. Outraged that Ren Fang’s friends had given no support to Ren’s progeny, he composed a long essay “Guang ‘Jue jiao lun’” 廣絕交論 (Disquisition on severing relations) in which he castigates scholar-officials who often establish friendships based purely on mercenary and materialistic interests. He identifies five types of associations: *shi jiao* 勢交 (association by virtue of power and influence); *hui jiao* 賄交 (association based on wealth); *tan jiao* 談交 (association based on speech-making and conversation); *qiong jiao* 窮交 (association through destitution); *liang jiao* 量交 (association by calculation). Liu concludes his essay by denouncing the times in which he lives, and declares that he will leave human society and become a recluse on a high mountain.

**Keywords:** *juejiao* 絕交 (severing relations), *lun* 論 (disquisition), Ren Fang 任昉, Liu Jun 劉峻, “Guang ‘Jue jiao lun’” 廣絕交論 (Disquisition on severing relations)