

**THE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES
OF THE SAINTS AND
SAGES ARE IN THE
TA CHENG HALL OF
THE CONFUCIUS TEMPLE**

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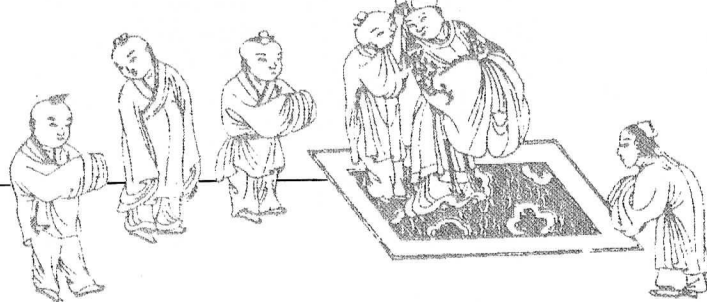
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1. A MODEL TO ALL MANKIND —CONFUCIUS

Confucius is one of the greatest men in the history of world. More than two thousand five hundred years ago (551 — 479 B.C.), he was born in the State of Lu (now the Province of Shantung). A descendent of a great noblemen of the State of Sung, he lost his father at the age of three and was reared by his mother in a state of impoverished simplicity. As he grew up, he was put in charge of the granary and the cattle and sheep of a certain Baron.

Never tired of learning and teaching throughout his life, Confucius has long been recognized in China as "the Greatest Sage and Foremost Teacher with Outstanding Achievements." He believed that in teaching, there should be no class distinctions and hence he had up to three thousand disciples. From the Analects, we can see that he tried to help his disciples solve problems arising out of daily life and human relationships. Though commonplace and practical, easily understood and easily carried out, his teachings contributed to the cultivation of the individual, the regulation of the family, the order of the state and the peace of the world.

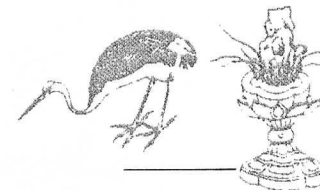
Confucius was born in a most critical period known as the period of the Spring and Autumn Annals, when the imperial dynasty of Chou was in decline, the rituals and music began to degenerate, and the country was in a state of moral chaos from the foudal princes down to the people. He attempted to revive the culture of the Chou House in its heyday. Once he was made the Chief Minister of his native State of Lu, and in three months he was able to put the country in order, but unfortunately he was forced to quit. For fourteen years he wandered over various states to see whether his political ideas could be realized. After repeated failures he finally returned to his native state, having perused nearly all the official documents of ancient times, he took pains to compile, edit or comment on the Book of History, the Book of Odes, the Book



of Rites, the Book of Music, the Book of Changes, and the Spring and Autumn Annals. These are the Six Classics which were handed down to later generations. In addition, his philosophy is also opitomized in the Analcets, the Canon of Filial Piety, the Great Learning, and the Contral Harmony (or the Doctrine of the Mean).

After the death of Confucius, his disciples and followers were scattered in different states, serving the foudal lords in one way or another and almost invariably preaching their teacher's doctrines. During the period of the Warring States, Mencius went further to elaborate Confucius political and ethical philosophy and laid down the foundation of Confucianism in particular and that of Chinese culture in general. In more than two thousand years from the Western Han Dynasty to the present day, it is the Confucian schotars or follows who have been able to re-establish the new order out of chaos in China, as can be seen throughout Chinese history. To commemorate Confucius, the National Government of the Republic of China has since its establishment officially proclaimed the birthday of Confucius as Teachers' Day. (September the 28th.)

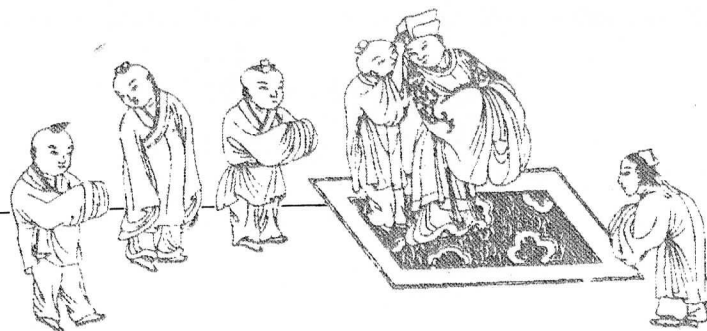
Broad yet profound, Confucianism has not only been the cornerstone of Chinese culture for more than two thousand five hundred years but also has had far-reaching effects abroad. It has influenced neighboring countries such as Japan, Korea, Vietnam and others, and it also inspired the eighteenth century French Enlightenment and as a result of modern democratic thought in the West. In the present world of moral deeday, Confucianism, which emphasizes the way of right rather than the way of might, might be one of the best remedies to our present world disorder. Thus, Confucius, recognized in China as the Greatost Exemplar of Teachers of All Ages, can serve as a model to all mankind.



A BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF THE CONFUCIUS, THE FOUR LESSER SAINTS AND TWELVE WISMEN

The offering sacrifice in Confucius Temple, there is a fixed form of "Four Sages" "Ten Philosophers" except Master Confucius to express solemnity.

Before "Four Sages", there is "Ten Philosophers" in the sacrificial ceremony of Confucius Temple, originally. The "Ten Philosophers" are ten disciples based on the chapter "The disciples travelled with me between the Chen and the Ts'ai", from the Analeets of Confucius. They are: VIRTUE: Yen Hui, Min Sun, Jan Ken, and Chung Kun; SPOKEN LANGUAGE: Tsai Yu, Tzu Kung; POLITICS: Jan Chil, Jih Lu; LITERATURE: Tze Hsia. Then, added Yo Yuo, and Chu Hsi, "Ten Philosophers" became "Twelve Philosophers".



2. THE FOUR LESSER SAINTS

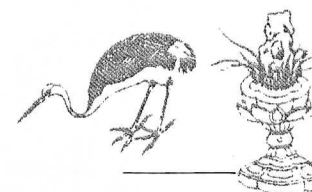
(1) YEN HUI, THE FU SAGE

Yen Hui, also named Yen Tsu-yuan or Yen Yuan, was one of Confucius students. He was born in the kingdom of Lu during the Spring and Autumn Period of Chou Dynasty. Being a bright and earnest person, he learned much from studying only one thing. Yen Hui was renowned because he did not take his anger out at others nor did he ever commit the same mistake twice. Confucius placed him at the top of those who were honored for the virtuous personalities. Yen's life was austere and simple. He lived in narrow, dirty alleys and always was lacking in food and drink. Others would distress under such pressure, but he remained steadfast, satisfied to lead a simple and virtuous life. His hair turned gray at the age of twenty-nine from overwork and malnutrition. It is said he died at thirty-two, but he was always remembered by following generations as the Fu Sage.

(2) TSENG SEN, THE TSUNG SAGE

Tseng Tsu-yu is another name for Tseng Sen, the son of Tseng Che and one of Confucius students. He was born into a poor family in Nan Wu Town during the Spring and Autumn Period of the Chou Dynasty and was admired for his obedient nature. He made a living at manual labor.

Although he was not a highly talented person, he was able to understand Confucius philosophy. He passed Confucius' doctrines of loyalty and reciprocity down to Tsu Ssu, and wrote "Tseng Tsu", a book of 18 chapters. He is honored as the Tsung Sage.

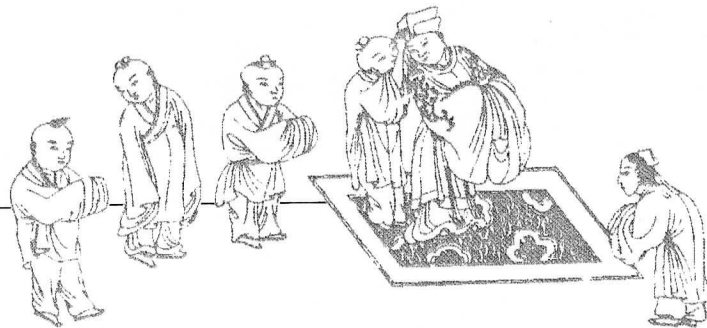


(3) KUNG CHI, THE SHU SAGE

Kung Chi, better known as Tsu Ssu, was the grandson of Confucius and disciple of Tseng Sen. He wrote the "Golden Mean", the most representative work on Confucianism. His epigrams for discussing Man's mind were regarded as the principles of the New Confucianists of the Sung and Ming Dynasties. His theory of the Mean has been an important aspect in Chinese philosophy. The "Golden Mean", along with "The Great Learning", "The Confucian Analects", and "Mencius" constitute the Four Classics in Chinese history. Kung Chi, who felt that teaching the philosophy of his sage ancestor was his responsibility, had several hundreds of students, including Mun Ko (Mencius). He died at the age of 62 and was revered as the Shu Sage.

(4) MUN KO, THE YAN SAGE

Mun Ko, better known as Mencius, was the off-spring of Mun Sun, a noble in the kingdom of Lu. He came from Tsou County of Shantung Province during the Warring States Period. When Mun Ko's father died at an early age, he took instruction from his mother, Chou, and studied under Kung Chi, or Tsu Ssu. Seven chapters of "Mencius", a book of his teachings and deeds composed by his students has been handed down to today. Mencius professed honoring rulers of good faith and denying those without principles, as well as placing more emphasis on righteousness and justice than on utilitarianism. He also advocated the theory that everyone is born with a good nature. The saying, "It is possible for anyone born to become as great as the Emperors Yao and Shun", is vital to Chinese philosophy. Later generation honored him as the Yan Sage, which puts him next only to Confucius in greatness.



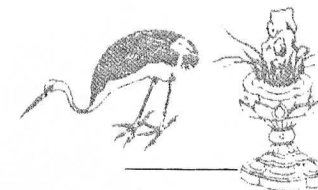
3. THE TWELVE WISMEN

(1) MIN SUN

Min Sun, also called Min Tsu-chien, was one of Confucius' students from the kingdom of Lu in the Spring and Autumn Period of the Chou Dynasty. Confucius classified him as virtuous for his obedient nature. In his childhood, Min suffered under the maltreatment of his stepmother. She would line his clothes with weeds in the winter, while she lined her own sons' clothes with warm cotton. One day, while taking his father out in a carriage, Min almost succumbed to the cold. When his father learned what had happened, he went back to cast his wife out of the house. However, Tsu-chien said, "If mother leaves, there will be three of your sons who go cold, but if she stays, then only one will suffer." His mother was touched by his kindness and admitted her error, treating Min afterwards as though he were her own son.

(2) JANG KENG

Jan Keng, also known as Jan Po-niu, was born in the kingdom of Lu during the Spring and Autumn Period of the Chou Dynasty. He was classified by Confucius, his teacher, in the group of virtuous people. Some time later, he was taken ill and Confucius came to call on him. Through the window, Confucius took Jan's hand and sighed, "Death is part of our destiny, but why is it that this man suffers from such an illness? Why is it?"



(3) JAN YAN

Jan Yan, also called Jan Chung-kung, was born in the Kingdom of Lu during the Spring and Autumn Period of the Chou Dynasty. Confucius, his teacher, classified him in the group of virtuous people. Although his father was not known for his good deeds, Chungkung was praised for his sincerity. Confucius Commented, "Chung-kung's father can be compared to a multi-colored ox, while the calf is pure red and healthy. The calf is much in demand as a sacrifice for national worship. The people could refuse to sacrifice it, and still, the gods of the mountains and rivers would keep it tightly in their grasp. "Confucius further praised him by saying, "He is capable of being a ruler."

(4) TSAI YU

Tsai Yu, also known as Tsai Tsu-wo, was one of Confucius' students. He was born in the kingdom of Lu and was later classified by Confucius in the group of people who were good at speech. Once he asked Confucius. "If somebody informs a benevolent person that a man fell into a well, should the benevolent descend into the well to save him?" Confucius replied, "Not necessarily. Anyone might believe what another says and run to help, but he himself will not be trapped. He may be tricked by someone's logic, but that does not mean he will be fooled into doing something stupid himself."



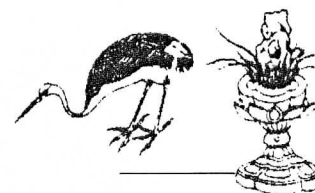
(5) TUAN MO SSU

Tuan Mu Ssu, one of Confucius' students was better known as Tsu Kung. He was born in the kingdom of Wei during the Spring and Autumn Period, 31 years after Confucius' birth. Confucius classified him in the group of people who were good at oratory, and this prediction was quite accurate. Since he was a successful businessman, Tsu Kung became the richest among Confucius' 72 outstanding students. He also serves as an official in the kingdoms of Lu and Wei.

After Confucius' death, he was the only student who stayed by his grave mourning the sage for 6 years. The other students left after a three-year mourning period. Tsu Kung later died in the kingdom of Ch'i.

(6) JAN CHIL

Jan Chil was also known as Jan Tsu-yu or Jan Yu. he was born in the kingdom of Lu, 29 years after the birth of his teacher, Confucius. He was modest, reserved and talented. Confucius classified him in the group of people who are keen at politics. Once serving as a general of Chi Kang-tsu, he achieved merit by fighting with the kingdom of Chi.

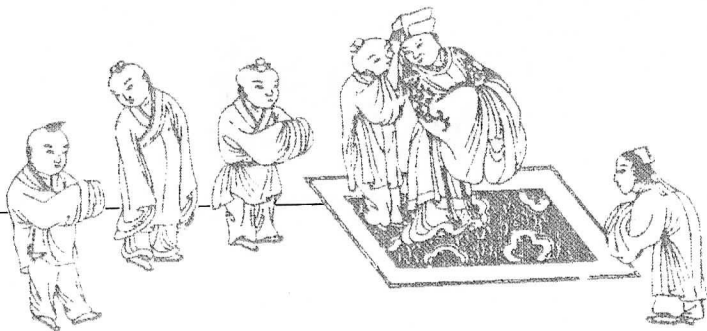


(7) CHUNG YU

Chung Yu, Confucius' student, was also known as Tsu Lu or Chi Lu. He was born in the kingdom of Lu and was later classified by Confucius, his teacher, in the group of people who were good at politics. Being an obedient son, Tsu Lu often carried rice home from miles away for his parents. When anyone pointed out his faults, he was appreciative and always took their advice. Once he served as an official in the kingdom of Wei.

(8) YEN YEN

Yen Yen, better known as Tsu-yu, came from the kingdom of Wu during the Spring and Autumn Period of the Chou Dynasty. He was 45 years younger than Confucius, his teacher. Since he had such vast knowledge of rites and literature, he was classified by Confucius in the group of people who specialized in literature. When Tsu-yu was serving as an official in Wu of the kingdom Lu, Confucius asked him, "Was there ever a really good man in your government?" Tsu-Yu replied, "Yes, his name was Chan Tai Mieh Ming, a man of righteousness and justice. He never took a short-cut while walking. If not on business, he never stepped into my private rooms". Tsu-Yu's grave was located at the foot of Lu Mountain in Chang Shu Country of Chiangsu Province. He was the originator of the literature in the kingdom of Wu.



(9) PO SHAN

Po Shan was also called Tsu-chia, born during the Spring and Autumn Period in the kingdom of Wei, 44 years after the birth of Confucius. He was excellent in literature and loved to study poetry. Confucius classified him in the group of people who specialized in literature.

Once he served as an official in Chu Fu of the kingdom Lu. He taught people of humanity. "Your knowledge must be vast and profound, and your goals, consistent. All aspects of a matter must be made clear through inquiry. Consider first the light and simple aspects, then the more difficult and complicated ones. Then you will find humanity."

He later lectured in a place called Hsi Ho. Wei Cheng-tsu, an official of the kingdom of Chin, honored him as his teacher.

(10) CHUAN SUN SHIH

Chuan Sun Shih was also called Chuan Sun Tsuchang. He was born in the kingdom of Chen during the Spring and Autumn Period, 48 years after the birth of Confucius. He surpassed the other in appearance, manners, talent, and capability, but he could not reach the ideal of humanity. Once he asked Confucius how to attain humanity.

Confucius said, "Anyone who possesses the fine virtues of politeness, tolerance and generosity, honesty, diligence and benevolence can be regarded as a person of humanity. Politeness will save one from the insults of others; tolerance and generosity will evoke the love of others; honesty brings trust from people; diligence foretells success; and benevolence encourages other to follow your instructions."

