



Prof. Kung Te-cheng

Kung Te-cheng, the 77th lineal descendent of Confucius, was born in 1920 in Chufu, Shantung Province.

His very special family background enabled him to receive the most strict and perfect traditional education, which equipped him as one of the few scholars intensely specializing in Confucian thought and other aspects of Chinese traditional culture.

In 1935, the government conferred upon him a new responsibility—officer in charge of the national Confucius Birthday Ceremony. Kung, at just 15, was the youngest appointed official, won with his performance before both the government and the Chinese people the most widespread respect.

In 1948, Kung visited the United States, accepting Yale University's invitation to an honorary research title. During his one-year tour, he was very impressed by the research dedication he witnessed at the University.

Kung was invited in 1957 to address a Japanese society for ethics, and since Confucianism has been very influential in shaping Japanese philosophy, Kung's presence there—both as a Confucian scholar and the sage's direct descendent—was warmly welcomed; the Emperor, premier, and other officials formally received him.

In 1958, the Vietnamese Confucian Society invited him to speak in Saigon. His visit was sought by Vietnam as a means to spreading Confucianism and reforming social ethics.

The following year, Sung Kyun Kwan University in South Korea asked Kung to lecture and conferred upon him an honorary doctoral degree in literature. The Korean government officially welcomed him.

In Taiwan, Kung is a professor teaching in the areas of Confucian rituals, ancient artifacts, and old Chinese calligraphy at a number of educational institutions, including National Taiwan University, National Taiwan Normal University, National Chung Hsing University, and Fu Jen Catholic University.

Confucius

His Life, Thought,
and Influence

A Collection of Speeches during a European Tour

by Prof. Kung Te-cheng,
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