

Title: Conversations

Subtitle: Confucianism

Second Subtitle: Confucianism

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Quote:

History:

K'ung Fu Tzu (commonly pronounced Confucius in English) was born in 551 BC (modern day Shantung Province). He lived during the Chou dynasty, and was a philosopher and statesman. Later in life, he wandered through many states of China, giving advice and teaching. He accumulated a small band of students during this time. The last years of his life were spent in Lu, where he devoted himself to teaching.

His writings deal primarily with individual morality and ethics, and the proper use of power by the rulers.

In China, and some other areas in Asia, the social ethics and moral teachings of Confucius blended with the Taoist communion with nature and Buddhist concepts of karma, creating a system of complementary, peacefully co-existent and ecumenical religions.

There are approximately 6 million Confucians in the world. About 26,000 Confucians are found almost all of the remainder are found throughout China and the rest of Asia.

Beliefs:

Confucian ethical teachings include the following values:

Li: includes ritual, propriety, etiquette, etc.

Hsiao: love within the family: love of parents for their children and of children for their parents

Yi: righteousness

Xin: honesty and trustworthiness

Jen: benevolence, humaneness towards others; the highest Confucian virtue

Chung: loyalty to the state, etc.

Practices:

Confucianism does not contain all of the elements of some other religion. It is primarily an ethical system to which rituals at important times during the year are added.

Since the time of the Han dynasty (206 CE) four life passages have been celebrated by Confucian tradition:

birth: The T'ai-shen (spirit of the fetus) protects the expectant woman and who harasses the mother to be. A special procedure is followed when the The mother is given a special diet and is allowed rest for a month after of origin supplies all the items required by the baby on the first, fourth anniversary of the birth.

reaching maturity: This life passage is no longer being celebrated, except takes the form of a group meal in which the young adult is served chicken

marriage: This is performed in six stages: Proposal: the couple exchange year, month, day and hour of each of their births. If any unpropitious event bride-to-be's family during the next three days, then the woman is believed proposal.

Engagement: after the wedding day is chosen, the bride announces the v a gift of cookies made in the shape of the moon.

Dowry: This is carried to the groom's home in a solemn procession. The the bride by the groom's parents. Gifts by the groom to the bride, equal sent to her.

Procession: The groom visits the bride's home and brings her back to his

Marriage and Reception: The couple recite their vows, toast each other center stage at a banquet.

Morning after: The bride serves breakfast to the groom's parents, who then

death: At death, the relatives cry out aloud to inform the neighbors. The puts on clothes made of a coarse material. The corpse is washed and placed bring incense and money to offset the cost of the funeral. Food and sign deceased are placed into the coffin. A Buddhist or Taoist priest (or even performs the burial ritual. Friends and family follow the coffin to the cemetery branch which symbolizes the soul of the person who has died. The latter altar where it is used to "install" the spirit of the deceased. Liturgies are 49th day after the burial and on the first and third anniversaries of the death

Schools of Confucianism

There are six schools: Han Confucianism, Neo-Confucianism, Contemporary Korean Confucianism, Japanese Confucianism and Singapore Confucianism

Sacred Texts

These were assembled by Chu Hsi (1130-1200 CE) during the Sung dynasty

The Si Shu or Four Books: The Lun Yu the Analects of Confucius

The Chung Yung or the Doctrine of the Mean

The Ta Hsueh or the Great Learning

The Meng Tzu the writings of Meng Tzu (371-289 BCE) a philosopher who from state to state conversing with the government rulers

The Wu Jing or Five Classics: Shu Ching or Classic of History: writings of Chinese rulers

The Shih Ching or Classic of Odes: 300 poems and songs

The I Ching or Classic of Changes: the description of a divinitory system

The hexagrams are symbols composed of broken and continuous lines; on the basis of the casting of 49 sticks, the future is predicted.

The Ch'un Ch'iu or Spring and Autumn Annals: a history of the state of Lu

The Li Ching or Classic of Rites: a group of three books on the Li the ri