

Student number 5504640987

Mr.Patcharapon Suppiumlarp

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Confucius' Teaching

There is a Chinese philosophical system called “Confucianism”¹ which is nowadays commonly known by many people. This important system originated from the mightiness of “Confucius”, who has given many good ways of thinking to the world. Confucius’ attitudes encourage the world’s way of thinking about certain things. Confucius was a thinker, politician, teacher and philosopher.² As a thinker, politician, teacher and philosopher, his teachings are about how such an individual should live his life and interact with others and the forms of society and government in which he should participate based on philosophy. Attitudes of Confucius made him the first of all with a noble morality.³ What he had done has proved him to be the greatest influence over the Chinese character.

Confucius decided to enter politics when he was about 50 years old with full determination to reform the disorganized system in China. He was appointed to be the Minister of Public works and then the Minister of Crime.⁴ His idea about political

¹ Wikipedia contributors. "Confucianism." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 10 Sept. 2012. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucianism>>.

² Wikipedia contributors. "Confucius." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 10 Sept. 2012. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucius>>.

³ TravelChinaGuide. "China Confucianism, Life of Confucius, Influences, Development." *TravelChinaGuide*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Sept. 2012. <<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/religion/confucianism/>>.

⁴ Jeffrey Legel. "Confucius." (*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*). N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Sept. 2012. <<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/confucius/>>

philosophy is that the ruler should learn ‘Self-discipline’. The key of leadership is “Virtue”. He added that ruler should treat his people with love and concern. He also teaches that if people are led by laws, they will try to escape punishment and have no sense of shame. But if they are led by virtue and uniformity, people will have a sense of shame and listen to the ruler with their will. It was so sad that his political views and opinions could not satisfy the ruler because he was just a minister. It made him forced to leave and go into exile. Thus, he devoted all his energies to educations.⁵ Later, it could be seen that the way Chinese government governed there people was more based on morality.

Confucius is both respectful teachers and students. His ways of thinking as both teachers and students are inspirations. Confucius dedicated himself to study at the age of 15. He argued that real understanding about certain things comes from long and careful study not from intuition or natural understanding.⁶ From being a good thinker, he is also an admirable teacher. Once, there was one young man ‘Yan Hui’ who wanted to be accepted as Confucius’ student. But the family of Yan Hui was so poor that they could not afford the tuition fee. One day he went to where Confucius giving lectures. Yan Hui overheard Confucius said that he was ready to accept anyone and whatever his origin. He was so happy and he finally became one of his students.⁷ Confucius always accepted anyone who wanted to study with him even a man who had just been released from a prison. From his generosity, it could be taken as a good example for both students and

⁵ Wikipedia contributors. "Analects." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 10 Sept. 2012. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Analects>>.

⁶ Jeffrey Legel. "Confucius." (*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*). N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Sept. 2012. <<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/confucius/>>

⁷ Chinatownconnection. "Confucius." ,*Great Chinese Teacher, Philosopher*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Sept. 2012. <<http://www.chinatownconnection.com/confucius.htm>>.

teachers. Because of his willingness, he had about 3000 followers. Confucius' goal is to create people with grace, and honesty. The important lesson of Confucius is the moral education. The moral education is important because students will value back to the world. Confucius later died with the age of 72 and left his disciples to keep on his work and teachings.⁸

Even Confucius died, his teachings are still existed. Three or four generations of his followers compiled his teachings into a book called "Lunyu" or "Analects of Confucius". Analects of Confucius have been one of the most widely read studied book in China for 2000 years. For 2000 years, it meant a lot to Chinese people and helped improve people's subconscious. People started to develop ethical and philosophy from his teachings and finally "Confucianism" originated⁹. Confucianism was so influenced in China and later became the ideology of the country.¹⁰ Confucianism is mainly about dealing with people needs, and standards for living. It did not only influence Chinese people but also had an important role in the world because of some his thoughts and ideas are similar to the truth. Confucianism later spread throughout East Asia. One of the most famous principles "Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself" was considered as an early version of Golden Rule. 'Voltaire', the French philosopher who was also influenced by Confucius, saw the concept of Confucian rationalism so similar to Christian dogma.¹¹

⁸ Wikipedia contributors. "Confucius." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 10 Sept. 2012. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucius>>.

⁹ Wikipedia contributors. "Confucianism." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 10 Sept. 2012. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucianism>>.

¹⁰ Stan Griffin. "CONFUCIANISM: WHAT DID CONFUCIUS REALLY SAY?" *CONFUCIANISM: WHAT DID CONFUCIUS REALLY SAY?* N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Sept. 2012. <<http://www.workersforjesus.com/confucianism.htm>>.

¹¹ Wikipedia contributors. "Confucianism." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 10 Sept. 2012. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucianism>>.

In conclusion, Confucius provided many good ways of thinking to the world. Although, he did not success being a politician but his ideas towards things have been a very good inspiration than he could imagine. Failed from a politician, he devoted himself to educations and it made him a very good example of both students and teachers. He provided lots of inspiration to his students in studying. He encouraged his students to study. Even the he passed away his followers still kept developing his teachings and later became the system, “Confucianism”. His philosophy encourages people to change the way of thinking about things. If there are two people facing the same bad situation, but one has different way of thinking he will be happier than another. You do not have to change the whole of yourself, but just some of your attitudes towards things and you will live a live happily than before.