



Chinese Philosophies & Ethical Codes

Confucianism

Confucius



- * 551 - 479 B.C.E.
- * Born in the feudal state of Liu.
- * Became a teacher and editor of books.

Major Confucian Principles

Li --> Rite, rules, ritual decorum (Binding force of an enduring stable society)

Ren --> humaneness, benevolence, humanity

Shu --> Reciprocity, empathy

Do not do unto others what you would not want others to do unto you.

Yi --> Righteousness

Xiao --> Filial Piety (Respect your elders!)

5 Principle Relationships

1. Ruler \longleftrightarrow Subject

2. Father \longleftrightarrow Son

3. Husband \longleftrightarrow Wife

4. Older Brother \longleftrightarrow Younger Brother

5. Older Friend \longleftrightarrow Younger Friend

Organizing Principles

- * Status

- * Age

- * Gender

Confucian Temple Complex



The Analects

- * The single most important Confucian work.
- * In Chinese, it means "conversation."
- * Focus on practicalities of interpersonal relationships and the relationship of the role of rulers and ministers to the conduct of government.

Sayings from The Analects

- * Knowing what he knows and knowing what he doesn't know, is characteristics of the person who knows.*
- * Making a mistake and not correcting it, is making another mistake.*
- * The superior man blames himself; the inferior man blames others.*
- * To go too far is as wrong as to fall short.*

Stones Engraved with Confucius' Life Stories



Confucius' Tomb



Mencius

- * 372 - 289 B.C.E.
- * Disciple of Confucius.
- * Starts off with the assumption that "people are basically good."
- * If someone does something bad, education, not punishment, is the answer.
 - Good people will mend their ways in accordance to their inherent goodness.

Social Cohesion is Paramount!

- * The emperor is the example of proper behavior --> "big daddy"
- * Social relationships are based on "rites" or "rituals."
- * Even religious rituals are important for SOCIAL, not religious reasons, acc. to Confucius.

Differences in Cultures

INDIA

1. Brahmin
2. Kshatriyas
3. Vaishyas
4. Shudras

Untouchables

CHINA

1. Scholar-Gentry
2. Peasants
3. Artisans
4. Merchants

Soldiers

Imperial Nobility

Domestic Slaves



Legalism

Han Fei

- * 280? - 233 B.C.E.
- * *Han Fe Zi*.
- * Lived during the late Warring States period.
- * Legalism became the political philosophy of the Qin [Ch'in] Dynasty.



Major Legalist Principles

1. Human nature is naturally selfish.
2. Intellectualism and literacy is discouraged.
3. Law is the supreme authority and replaces morality.
4. The ruler must rule with a strong, punishing hand.
5. War is the means of strengthening a ruler's power.

Authoritarian



One who favors the principle that individuals should obey a powerful authority rather than exercise individual freedom.

The ruler, therefore, "cracks his whip" on the backs of his subjects!



Daoism

Lao Zi [Lao-Tzu]



- * Not sure when he died.
[604 B.C.E. - ?]
- * His name means
"Old Master"
- * Was he Confucius' teacher?

The Dao De Jing

- * The basic text of Daoism.
- * In Chinese, it means *The Classic in the Way and Its Power*.
- * "Those who speak know nothing:
Those who know are silent."
These words, I am told,
Were spoken by Laozi.
If we are to believe that Laozi,
Was himself one who knew,
How is it that he wrote a book,
Of five thousand words?

Major Daoist Principles

1. *Dao [Tao]* is the first-cause of the universe. It is a force that flows through all life.
2. A believer's goal is to become one with Dao; one with nature. ["The butterfly or the man?" story.]
3. *Wu wei* --> "Let nature take its course."
--> "The art of doing nothing."
--> "Go with the flow!"
4. Man is unhappy because he lives acc. to man-made laws, customs, & traditions that are contrary to the ways of nature.

The "Dao" [Tao]



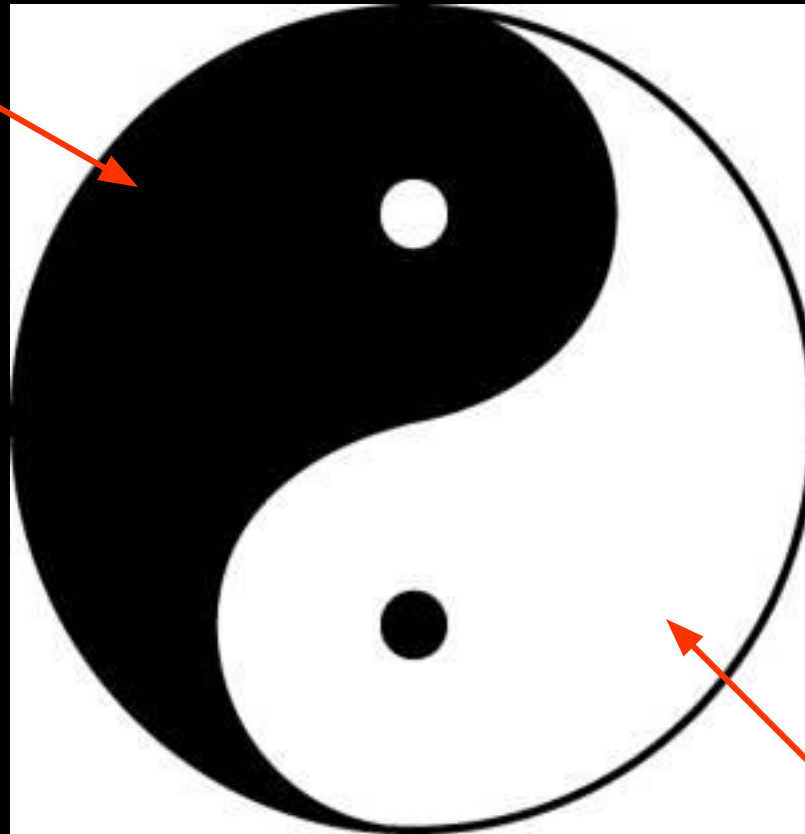
To escape the "social, political, & cultural traps" of life, one must escape by:

1. Rejecting formal knowledge and learning.
2. Relying on the senses and instincts.
3. Discovering the nature and "rhythm" of the universe.
4. Ignoring political and social laws.

The Universe of Opposites: Find the Balance!

Yin

- * Feminine
- * Passive
- * Darkness
- * Cold
- * Weak
- * Earth;
Moon



- * Masculine
- * Active
- * Light
- * Warmth
- * Strong
- * Heaven;
Sun

Yang

The Uniqueness of Daoism

How is a man to live in a world dominated by chaos, suffering, and absurdity??

Confucianism --> Moral order in society.

Legalism --> Rule by harsh law & order.

Daoism --> Freedom for individuals and less govt. to avoid uniformity and conformity.

What's Your Philosophy of Life?

