

CONFUCIANISM

People Places Practices Philosophies



The symbols of Confucianism are the ideograms of water (first symbol above) or humanity in balance (second symbol above).

People

Founder: Zhongni (first name) Kung (family name); called Kung Fu Tzu (Master Kung); translated as Confucius by Jesuit Missionaries

Local Leader: Known as Priest.

Population: 5-6 million, but many Chinese are Confucian in philosophy if not as a secondary type of religion.

Places

Place of Origin: China

Date of Origin: 551–478 BCE

Significant Holy City or Place: Confucius' birth and burial places in Shandong Province, China (south of Beijing, north of Shanghai)

Major Population Centre: China

Place of Worship: Temple

Protocol for Visitors: Remove shoes in main shrine room.

Practices

The ordinary actions of everyday life rather than arbitrary, regimented rituals are considered the practices of Confucianism.

Philosophies

Divinity: None.

Scriptures: *The Analects* (Representative words and acts of Confucius ca. 479-221 BCE); *Mencius* (Text by a Confucian disciple ca. 372-289 BCE); *The Great Learning* (Confucius' Teachings with Commentary ca. 500-200 BCE); *Doctrine of the Mean* (More mystical than other texts. Blueprint for societal order. Date Unknown.)

Quotations from the Analects: Those who do not economize will have to agonize. Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves. Forget injuries; never forget kindness. We don't know yet about life, how can we know about death? I hear and I forget; I see and I remember; I do and I understand. It doesn't matter how slowly you go so long as you don't stop.

Golden Rule: "One word which sums up the basis of all good conduct...loving-kindness. Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself." *Analects 15.23*

Key Concepts: The establishment of a good society is determined by proper conduct between individuals and correct observation of protocol and relationship rather than by universal/divine forces,

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