

THE BOOK OF CHINESE WISDOM

BOOK III

TIMELESS TALES
OF VIRTUES
AND VALUES

Michael C. Tang

唐庆华 著

中國智慧故事

三

教育伦理篇

上海人民出版社





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The Book of Chinese Wisdom was originally published by the Foreign Language Press of Beijing in 1996 under the title of *A Treasury of China's Wisdom*. It was published in the U.S. by Prentice Hall Press in 2000 under the title of *A Victor's Reflections and Other Tales of China's Timeless Wisdom*. Subsequently it was translated into other foreign languages and published in Europe and Asia.

I have completely revised and substantially expanded the book for the bilingual version. The book is now in four volumes, each with a distinct theme.

The Book of Chinese Wisdom is the result of years of studying hundreds of Chinese classics in history, literature and philosophy, ranging from *The Book of Changes* to *Tao Te Ching*, from *The Intrigues of the Warring States* to *The Records of the Historian*, from *Remarks of Monarchs* to *The Comprehensive Mirror to Rulers*, from *The Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms* to *The History of the Ming Dynasty*, traversing the vast panoply of China's history.

In recent years, there is a surge of interest in China. But most newly published books outside China deal with modern China. Few focused on China's classical wisdom. This book is meant to fill that gap. I approach the subject of Chinese classical wisdom with a view of applying it in our present-day life. No prior knowledge of China is needed as I take the reader on a tour through the treasure land of Chinese wisdom and call their attention to the gems in the treasure trove. I hope they will discover the practical value of Chinese wisdom while learning something about Chinese culture.

I am deeply grateful to Wang Meng, former Minister of Culture of China and well-known author, Nicholas Kristof, author and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist of *The New York Times*, Zhu Yinghuang, editor-in-chief emeritus of *China Daily*, and Ross Terrill, well-known author and China scholar at Harvard University, for their generous praise.

At the Shanghai People's Publishing House, I am indebted to Mr. Fan Weiwen and Ms. Pan Danrong for their enthusiasm and thoughtfulness and to Ms. Julia Zhang for her wonderful help.

I owe a special debt to Professor Constance Yang who read the entire manuscript and offered many valuable suggestions that have brightened these pages. I would like to thank Ms. Frances Zhang and Ms. Cecilia Qian for their patience and assistance.

致 谢

《中国智慧故事》原用英文撰就，由中国外文出版社于1996年出版。2000年该书由美国最大的出版公司之一普伦蒂斯·霍尔公司在美国出版，随后被译成多种语言在各国出版。

作者在撰写英汉对照本的过程中，对原著内容作了全面修订和大幅度的扩充，并拓展为四册。每册有一个主题。

《中国智慧故事》是作者根据多年来所研读的数百种中国书籍，包括《老子》、《庄子》、《易经》、《论语》、《左传》、《国策》、《国语》、《史记》、《三国志》、《资治通鉴》等等，选取其中最能代表中国智慧的精华故事，以现代英语重新撰写而成，旨在使不具备中国历史知识的普通英语读者也能了解渊源博大的中国智慧。

近年来，世界各国对中国的兴趣日趋浓厚。但是，目前国外出版的多为现代中国的题材，而以普通读者为对象，介绍中国古代智慧的书却极少。其实，中国古典智慧是很有现实意义和实用价值的。作者相信，通过此书，读者既可以受到中国智慧的启迪，又能够增进对中国传统文化的了解。

本书渥蒙前文化部长、著名作家王蒙，美国《纽约时报》专栏作家、普利策奖获得者纪思道，英文《中国日报》名誉主编朱英璜，美国著名作家、哈佛大学费正清中心研究员谭若思等撰写赞语，作者深感荣幸。

作者十分感谢上海人民出版社对本书的热情支持，特别是范蔚文先生和潘丹榕女士的悉心关怀和指导，以及张玲雅小姐卓有成效的工作。

阮式云教授细阅全稿，给我良多助益，我特别感激她。我也感谢张帆小姐和钱华小姐的耐心协助。

本书封面之美归功于著名书籍设计师袁银昌先生匠心独运。李静女士的创意也为本书增色无限。本书书名由家父唐清安题写。

The cover is the creation of Mr. Yuan Yinchang, renowned Chinese artist whose works have won domestic and international prizes. Ms. Li Jing has graced the page layout with her ingenuity. The calligraphy was elegantly written by my father with virtuoso brush strokes.

I owe the biggest debt of all to my grandfathers and grandmothers who taught me to love the Chinese classics and cherish their wisdom.

I shall be happy to hear comments and suggestions from my readers.

祖父母和外祖父母从小教我要热爱中国古典精华，珍惜中国智慧。他们是我更应该感谢的人。

作者衷心欢迎读者来信交流心得，并馈赠宝贵意见和建议。

INTRODUCTION

Wisdom is the most precious asset our ancestors have left behind. But it is something that cannot be genetically inherited. Unless we make an effort to learn and practice it, wisdom will not be ours to keep.

The Book of Chinese Wisdom brings together a host of thought-provoking stories that are among the most famous in Chinese classics. They are the gems in the treasure trove of Chinese wisdom. You do not need prior knowledge of Chinese history to appreciate these stories whose morals transcend time and space.

Wisdom is not one-dimensional or singly focused; wisdom is rich in variety and kaleidoscopic in manifestation. *The Book of Chinese Wisdom* is in four volumes. *Book I* is about the art of management; *Book II*'s theme is wit and humor; *Book III* focuses on virtues and values; and *Book IV* contains famous stories of power and influence.

No individual has so deeply influenced the life, thought and language of the Chinese as Confucius. Confucius has been the uncrowned king of China. Confucianism is more than a cultural heritage; it is an integral part of Chinese wisdom. It is the national consciousness of the Chinese. In this book we shall find out what kind of a man Confucius was like.

We shall also learn the wisdom of Lao Tzu, an older contemporary of Confucius, whose idea has an enormous influence on the Chinese, with both spiritual and practical dimensions, and whose name has shone through the ages like that of Confucius.

A traditional Chinese family often had a set of precepts that served as rules of conduct for everybody to follow. It embodied the values that the family's ancestors believed in such as filial piety, thrift, prudence, tolerance, self-cultivation and so on, which was handed down from generation to generation. Before their death, the parents would leave instructions for the children, counseling them to work hard, to associate with good company, to repay a debt of gratitude, to be dutiful in public service and so on. Family precepts occupy a special place in Chinese culture. This is because the Chinese believe that it is the family, more than school or society, that is the cornerstone of education and the foundation on which character is built. In this book, we shall introduce two famous examples of familial precepts.

序

智慧是祖先留给我们的最宝贵的财富。但是，智慧不能靠基因遗传。如果我们不努力学习智慧，不运用智慧，我们就无法传承智慧。

《中国智慧故事》搜集了中国历史上最著名的故事。这些引人深思的故事是中国智慧宝库里的明珠。读者即使不熟悉中国历史，也能欣赏故事里超越时空的寓意。

智慧层面丰富，种类繁多，表现多姿多彩。《中国智慧故事》共有四册。第一册的主题是管理智慧，第二册的主题是机智与幽默，第三册的重点是教育与伦理，第四册的重点是权谋与兵法。

没有一个人像孔子那样对中国人的生活、思想和语言有如此深远的影响。孔子是中国的无冕之王。儒教不仅是中国的文化遗产，也是中国智慧的一个不可或缺的组成部分。它代表着中国的民族意识。本书将介绍孔子的生平和为人。

本书还将介绍孔子的同时代人——老子的智慧。老子的思想对中国人的精神生活和日常生活有巨大的影响。老子和孔子一样，名垂千古。

传统的中国家庭往往有一部家训作为家族成员的行为准则，世代相传。家训体现了先祖的价值观如孝顺、俭约、谨慎、宽容、律己等。做父母的临终前，往往留下家训，告诫子女要努力工作，结交良友，知恩图报，忠于职守，等等。治家格言在中国文化中有特殊的位置，因为中国人认为家庭比学校和社会更重要。家庭是子女受教育和培养性格的基地。本书将介绍两部著名的古代治家格言。

About The Book of Chinese Wisdom

Book I Art of Management

Book I gleans nearly seventy tales of the art of management. With China's long tradition of civil administration, management was a refined art in ancient China. Management, in essence, is about people. Despite advances in science and technology, human nature has hardly changed since ancient times. The wisdom embedded in these tales will strike the reader as both fresh and practical. Book I also explores the wisdom of *The Book of Changes* from a business perspective.

Book II Wit and Humor

Book II gleans about seventy tales of wit and humor. Through them the reader will find that wisdom manifests itself in many ways. It can mean the enlightenment of the mind, a sound philosophy of living, a stratagem, or the effective management of a difficult situation. This volume contains many fables whose moral has become an integral part of Chinese wisdom. A dozen well-known stories of Zen are also included.

Book III Virtues and Values

Confucianism is not only China's cultural heritage but a vital part of Chinese wisdom. In Book III we shall find out what kind of a man Confucius was like. We shall also learn the wisdom of Lao Tzu, an older contemporary of Confucius. A traditional Chinese family often had a set of precepts that served as rules of conduct for everybody to follow. They occupy a special place in Chinese culture. In Book III we shall present two well-known examples of familial precepts.

Book IV Power and Influence

The period between the fall of an old dynasty and the rise of a new one seems to be the best focal point to observe the folly and wisdom of man. The times gave birth to great men whose talent and wisdom were brought into full swing by fate. Book IV examines three most significant periods in Chinese history. The first is the rise of the Qin dynasty and its rapid collapse; the second is the rise of the Han dynasty; and the third is the downfall of the Ming dynasty and the rise of the Qing.

《中国智慧故事》 分册简介

第一册 管理智慧篇

第一册搜集了近七十个有关管理艺术的故事。中国悠久的文职传统使管理在古代就已经成为一门练达的艺术。管理艺术是与人打交道的艺术。今天，尽管科学技术取得了长足的进步，但是人的本性几乎没有变化。读者将发现本书故事里的智慧既新鲜又实用。本书还从管理角度探讨了《易经》的智慧。

第二册 机智幽默篇

第二册搜集了近七十个饱蘸机智和幽默的故事。读者将发现，智慧的表达方式多种多样。它可以指心灵的觉悟，可以指一种健全的人生哲学，也可以指一种智谋，或者一种应对棘手局面的方法。本书许多寓言的哲理是中国智慧的一个重要组成部分。本书还收了一些著名的禅宗的故事。

第三册 教育伦理篇

儒教不仅是中国的文化遗产，也是中国智慧的一个不可或缺的组成部分。第三册将介绍孔子的生平和为人，还将介绍孔子的同时代人——老子的智慧。传统的中国家庭往往有一部家训作为家族成员的行为准则。治家格言在中国文化中有特殊的位置。本书将介绍两部著名的古代治家格言。

第四册 权谋兵法篇

观察人的智慧和愚蠢的最佳时期似乎是当一个旧王朝为一个新王朝所取代的那段时期。伟人往往产生在这段时期里。命运让他们有机会尽其智慧，施展才华。本书考察了中国历史上三个最有意义的时期。第一个是秦朝的崛起和崩溃的过程；第二个是汉朝兴起的时期；第三个是明末清初的动荡年代。

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PART I

THE UNCROWNED KING

至圣先师

CHILDHOOD

Confucius is the most famous Chinese. Since the first century B.C., his thought has never ceased to exert a vital influence on China. But Confucius was not his real name. It was a courtesy title, a Latinized form of "Kong Fuzi", meaning "Master Kong." His family name was Kong and his given name Qiu.

Confucius's father was a member of the aristocracy in Lu in modern Shandong and was a well-known soldier. When he was nearly seventy years old, he married a girl who was in her teens, and Confucius was their child.

Legend says that his mother often went to pray at a shrine at the foot of Mount Ni Qiu in the southeast of Qufu. One night she had a dream in which she saw a fabulous one-horned horse, the so-called *qilin*, emerge from the edge of a forest, clenching a book made of jade between its teeth. *Qilin* symbolized intelligence and good fortune in Chinese tradition. The animal threw the book at her feet and ran back into the woods. Before long, she was pregnant. When her baby was born, she called him Qiu, *qiu* meaning a mound, because the baby had a small protrusion on his head.

His father died when Confucius was only three years old. His mother took him and left his father's family which had never approved of her marriage with his father.