



CONFUCIUS

&

HIS THOUGHT OF
BENEVOLENCE

孔子及其“仁”的思想



CONFUCIUS & HIS
THOUGHT
OF
BENEVOLENCE

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**CONFUCIUS & HIS
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BENEVOLENCE**

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Dedicated to

those who may not be specialists in the study of Confucius, but who are interested in a better understanding of Chinese culture and a better relationship with the Chinese people

仁者爱人

匡亚明 
一九九〇年五月十八日



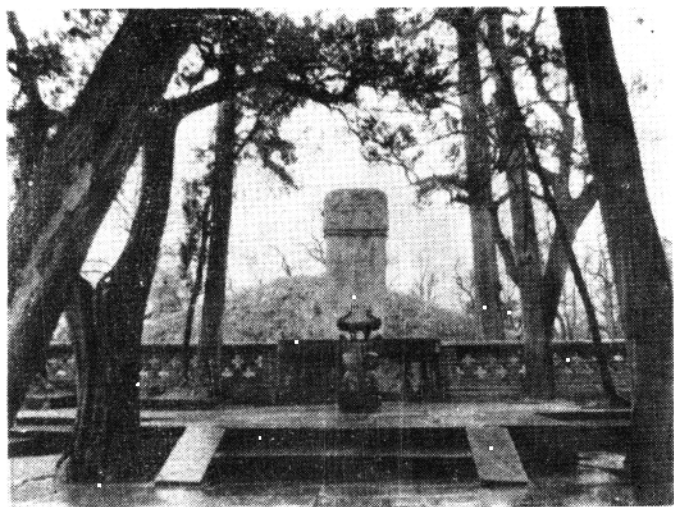
大成殿

Hall of Great Achievements the place where the sacrifices were offered for Confucius



杏坛

Apricot Altar the place where Confucius gave lectures to disciples



孔子墓

Confucius Tomb

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PART ONE

CONFUCIUS' LIFE AND HIS CAREER

Confucius is known today as a great philosopher, educator and statesman in the Spring-Autumn period in Chinese history. a great representative of the ancient Chinese culture. He was a man of great learning and great virtue, who was always true to his own words. Among all the philosophers of various schools at that time, he was the one of THE GREATEST INFLUENCE. His influence was most profound and far-reaching both for his time and for the ensuing centuries. For more than 2000 years, Confucius' Thought has remained alive among the Chinese and some of his principles of have been adopted by them as their ethical, ideological and social standards for their spiritual, social and family lives. These we recognize today as the Chinese

values, which are characteristically different from those of the western countries.

But at the same time, Confucius Thought played an important part in maintaining the the feudal society for more than 2000 years. Ever since it was adopted as the orthodox state ideology by emperor Wu Di of the Han Dynasty (141—87 B. C.), it had served as the ideological mainstay for the ruling class of all feudal dynasties. And as the position of his thought was established, Confucius himself was admired and worshiped more and more highly by the rulers. Post-humous honorary titles were conferred on him by the emperors of every dynasty since the Northern Wei's time (386—543 A. D.). Then he was named as "Father Ni the Learned Sage". Later the Tang emperors called him "The Sage" and conferred on him the title "Prince of Literary Excellence", which was expanded by the Yuan dynasty emperors to "Prince of Literary Excellence and Sagely Accomplishment". The Ming dynasty emperors named him "First Master of Sagely Accomplishment", and the Qing rulers went even further as to confer princeships on the five generations of his immediate ascendants.

Confucianism did not only affect China, it also