

The Big Picture Book of Chinese Culture

# Wisdom of Life

Written by Ye Lang and Zhu Liangzhi

Illustrated by Sunki and Leftleft



 NEW WORLD PRESS



**The Big Picture Book of Chinese Culture**

# **Wisdom of Life**

Written by Ye Lang and Zhu Liangzhi

Illustrated by Sunki and Leftleft



## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

中国文化绘本. 人生智慧: 英文 / 叶朗, 朱良志著;  
(美) 马一鸣等译; 小奎, 左左绘. -- 北京: 新世界  
出版社, 2013.6

ISBN 978-7-5104-2986-6

I. ①中… II. ①叶… ②朱… ③马… ④小… ⑤左…  
III. ①传统文化—中国—通俗读物—英文 IV.  
① G12-49

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2013)第122968号

## 中国文化绘本：人生智慧（英文版）

---

总策划：向勇 邓丽丽  
监制：北京大学文化产业研究院动漫游戏研究中心  
运营：北京奥博尼文化交流有限公司  
原著：叶朗 朱良志  
翻译：(美) 马一鸣 唐琳娜 (美) 柯言 (美) 白天穆  
漫画：小奎 左左  
责任编辑：陈黎明  
策划编辑：庞雅军 马桂林  
制作统筹：范颖  
责任印制：李一鸣 黄厚清  
出版发行：新世界出版社  
社址：北京市西城区百万庄大街24号(100037)  
总编室电话：+ 86 10 6899 5424 68326679 (传真)  
发行部电话：+ 86 10 6899 5968 68998705 (传真)  
本社中文网址：<http://www.nwp.cn>  
版权部电子信箱：[frank@nwp.com.cn](mailto:frank@nwp.com.cn)  
版权部电话：+ 86 10 6899 6306  
印刷：北京京华虎彩印刷有限公司  
经销：新华书店  
开本：787mm\*1092mm 1/16  
字数：100千字 印张：11.75  
版次：2013年7月第1版 2013年7月北京第1次印刷  
书号：ISBN978-7-5104-2986-6  
定价：25.00元

---

新世界版图书 版权所有 侵权必究  
新世界版图书 印装错误可随时退换

**First Edition 2013**

General Planner: Hardy Yong Xiang and Deng Lili  
Supervisor of the Production: Institute for Cultural Industries, Peking University  
Producer: Beijing Omni Culture Communication Co., Ltd  
Written by Ye Lang and Zhu Liangzhi  
Translated by Matt Schrader, Tang Linna, Chris Burger and Brian Timm-Brock  
Illustrate by Xiao Kui and Leftleft  
Edited by Chen Liming  
Planner: Pang Yajun and Ma Guilin  
Production Coordinator: Fan Ying

Copyright by New World Press, Beijing, China  
All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means without permission in writing from the publisher.

ISBN 978-7-5104-2986-6

*Published by*

NEW WORLD PRESS

24 Baiwanzhuang Street, Beijing 100037, China

*Distributed by*

NEW WORLD PRESS

24 Baiwanzhuang Street, Beijing 100037, China

Tel: 86-10-68995968

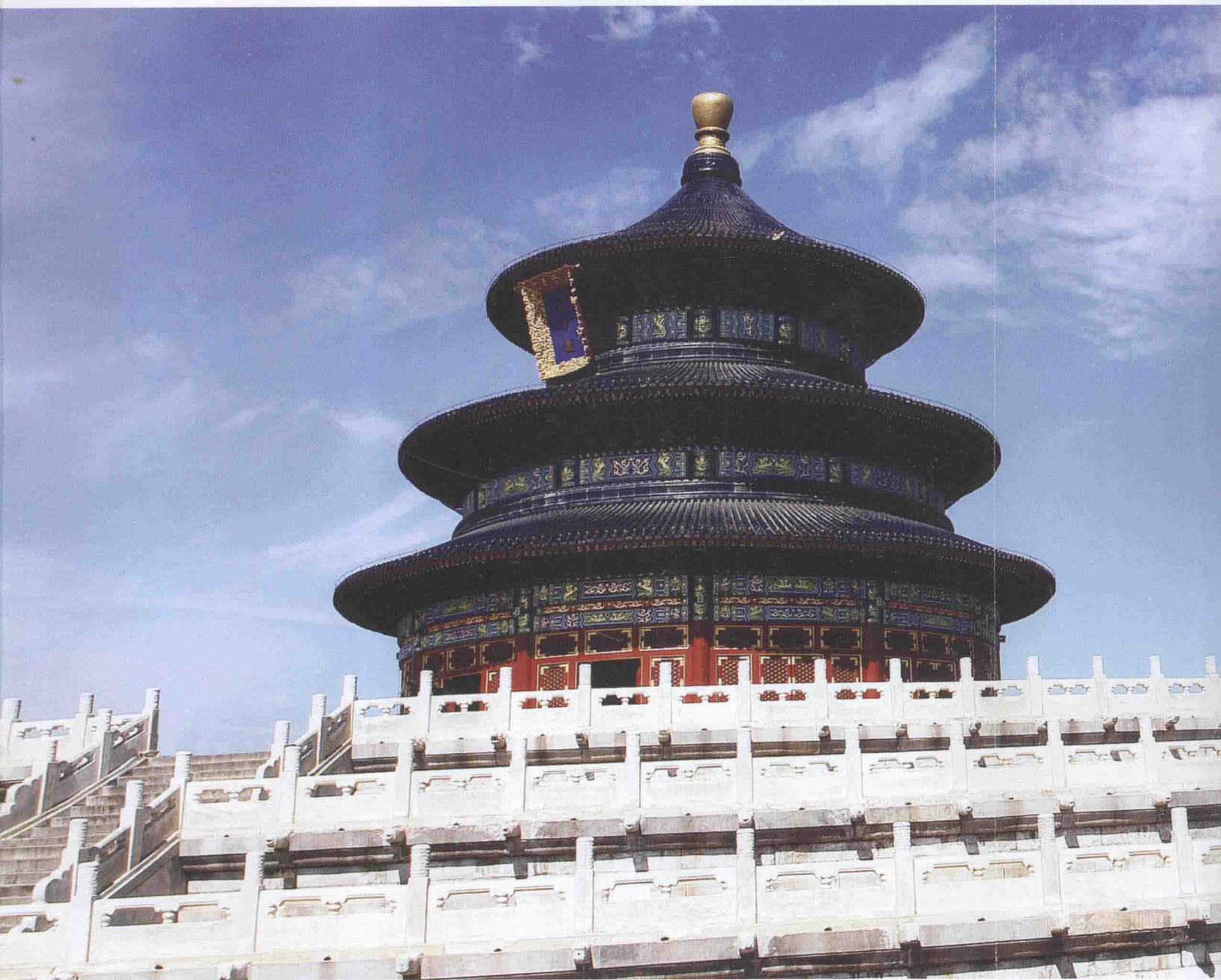
Fax: 86-10-68998705

Website: [www.newworld-press.com](http://www.newworld-press.com)

E-mail: [frank@nwp.com.cn](mailto:frank@nwp.com.cn)

*Printed in the People's Republic of China*





The Hall Of Prayer for Good Harvests, The Temple of Heaven

# Preface

This book introduces Chinese culture in an amusing way. We hope that readers can feel the “living” Chinese culture. Through the book, readers will not only gain knowledge of Chinese culture, but also understand the Chinese spirit, the vitality and creation of the nation, and the character, national spirit, and aesthetic pursuits of the Chinese people.

*The Analects* and the Temple of Heaven explain that the Chinese people hold nature in awe and gratitude;

Confucian thought and Chinese paintings show that Chinese people cherish life and that they have a holistic concept of life in which man is part of a unitary force with other living creatures;

From Laozi, *Book of Changes*, Zen philosophy, traditional Chinese medicine, shadow boxing and the game of Go, we can understand the Chinese wisdom of living in harmony with the way of nature;

With Sunzi's *Art of War*, the Great Wall and Zheng He's voyages to the Western seas, it becomes apparent that Chinese people hope for eternal peace;

The “Minority Folk Fashions,” which is highly popular in Chang'an, and the Western fashion in old Shanghai offer strong evidence of the open and inclusive spirit of Chinese culture;

The long travel of Xuanzang and Yijing to South Asia and the large-scale translation team demonstrates the openness of Chinese people to foreign cultures;

From the smiling Buddha in the Maiji Mountain Grottoes and the indomitable character of Monkey King in *Journey to the West*, we can see that Chinese people always keep an optimistic and easy-going

spirit. They never lose hope despite the hardships of life and find ways of coping with the normal vicissitudes of human existence;

*Riverside Scene at Qingming Festival* depicts the joyful and harmonious atmosphere of the capital Bianliang of the Northern Song Dynasty, exemplifying the Chinese soulful contentment of a peaceful and harmonious life;

From the pigeons soaring across the blue sky in Beijing and the leisure in tea-drinking, it is hardly arguable that the common Chinese people enjoy a sense of self-worth and find meaning and happiness in their everyday life;

The New Year Pictures of Yangliuqing in Tianjin and Taohuawu in Suzhou express the Chinese people's strong wishes for peaceful and affluent life;

The bronzeware of the Spring and Autumn Period, the calligraphy of Wang Xizhi and the poems of Li Bai all demonstrate the Chinese dynamic and graceful artistic pursuit;

The pure porcelain, fascinating gardens and women's graceful cheongsam provide stunning evidence of the Chinese aesthetic tastes;

From the delicate romantic atmosphere created by the Chinese zither (a traditional Chinese musical instrument) to the art of tea-drinking, we can clearly see the aesthetic appreciation of beauty.

*The Big Picturebook of Chinese Culture* is adapted from the earlier published *Insights into Chinese Culture* (Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2008). In a more vivid comic way, the readers soon understand the inner world and aesthetic tastes of Chinese people and get a better understanding of Chinese culture.

Ye Lang and Zhu Liangzhi

August 8, 2009



# Introduction

The relationship between Heaven and man is a fundamental theme of Chinese philosophy.

It is the essential question of universe and life. Confucius is one of the founders of the study of Heaven and man.

The classics such as *Laozi* and *The Book of Changes* all focus on this question.

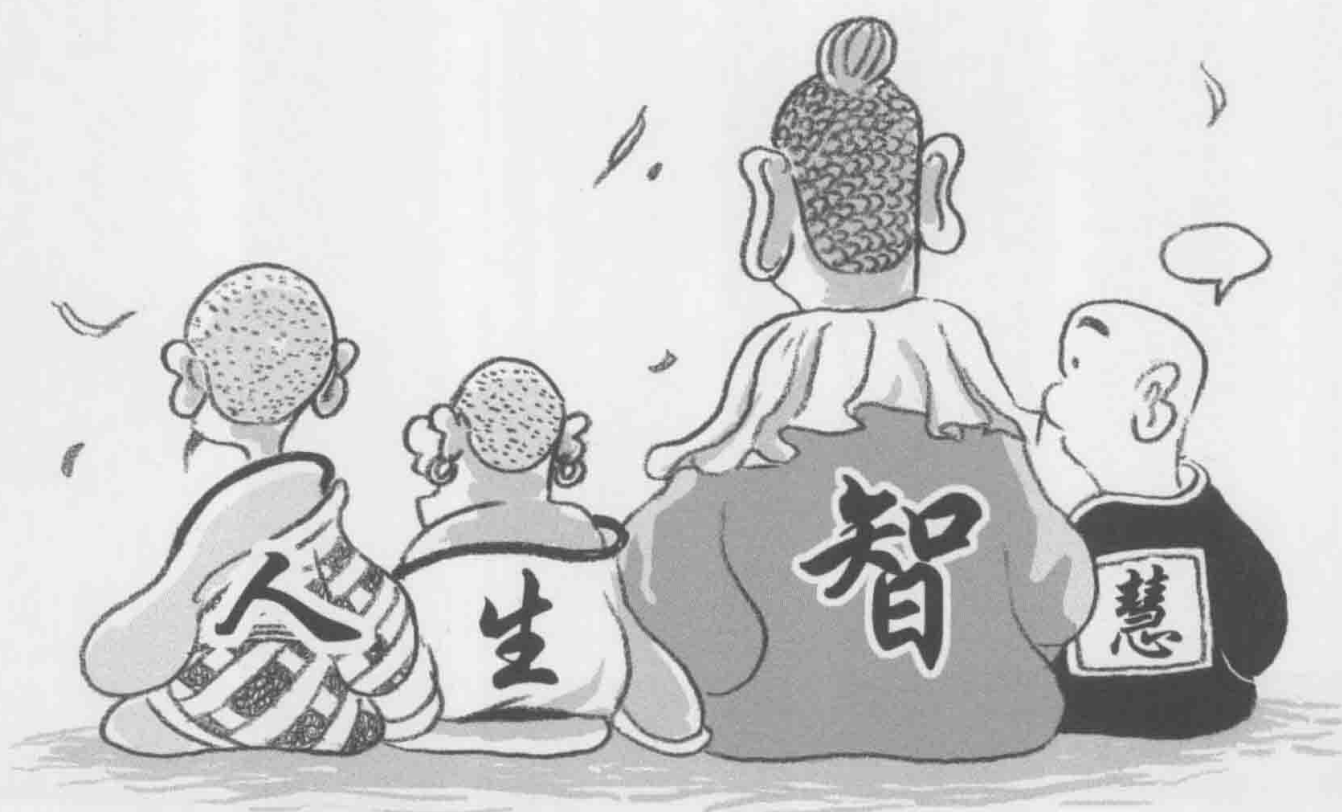
Confucius regarded Heaven as a natural process of creation of life. Heaven had a certain sacred element. People should respect Heaven and hold Heaven in awe, which is embodied by the Temple of Heaven.

The core concept of Confucius is benevolence, which refers to love and respect for life.

There is a strong eco-awareness in traditional Chinese culture. It regards man as part of nature, so man should love parents and extend love to everything in the world.

Confucius emphasized that students should broaden and uplift their mind and continually seek the greater meaning and value of life. The unique theory on the spiritual life of Chinese philosophy was initiated by Confucius.

The study of Heaven and man is a crystallization of the wisdom of ancient Chinese philosophers.



# Contents

Confucian Thought on Heaven  
and Man — 01



Laozi's Philosophy of Non-action — 25



A Classic on Transformations:  
*The Book of Changes* — 43



Wisdom in Sunzi's *Art of War* — 71



# Contents



95 ——— Reverence and Gratitude for Heaven:  
The Temple of Heaven



121 ——— Eco-awareness in Chinese  
Philosophy

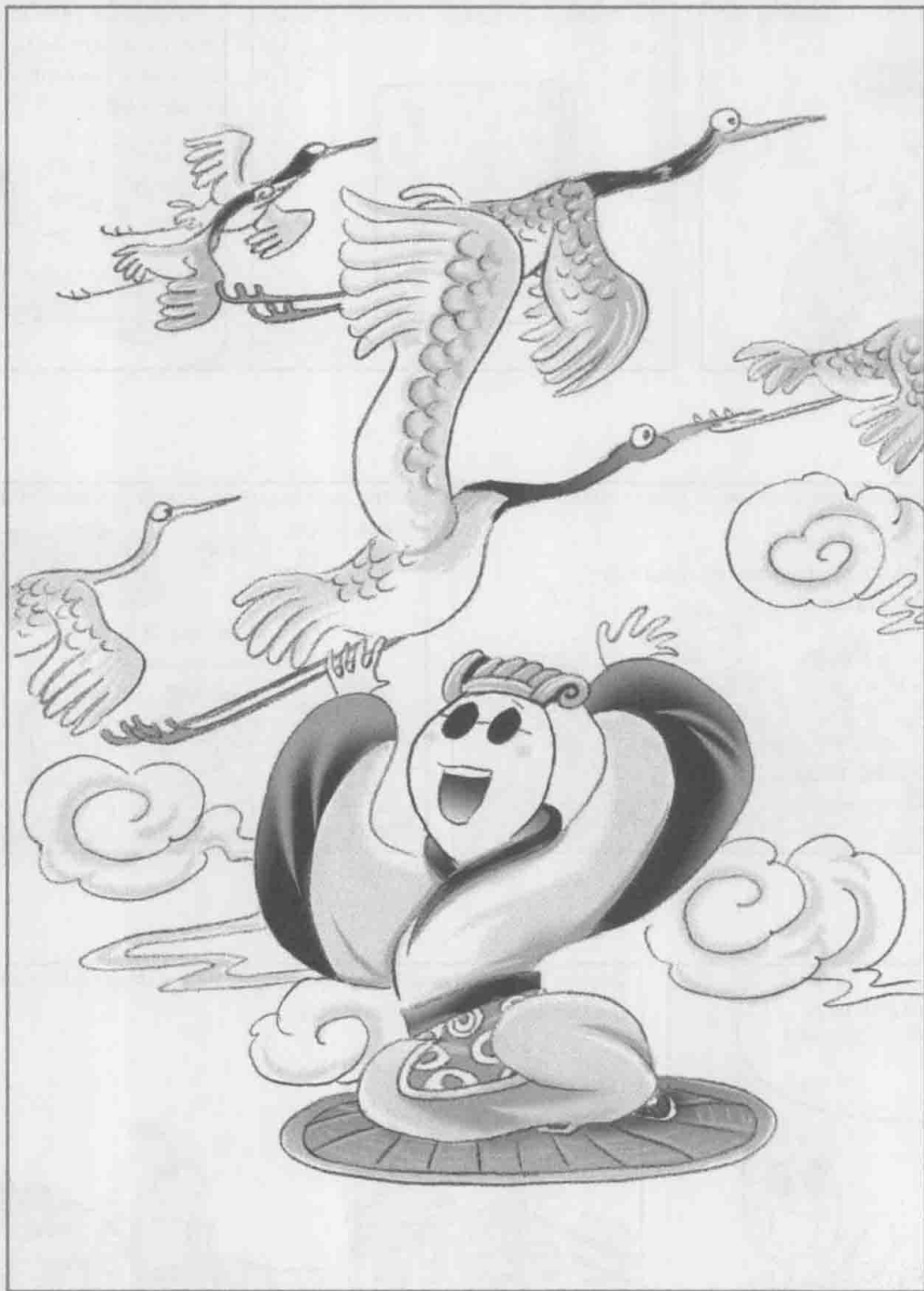


139 ——— Zen and the Theory of Subtle  
Enlightenment



159 ——— *Kungfu and Cuju*

# Confucian Thought on Heaven and Man



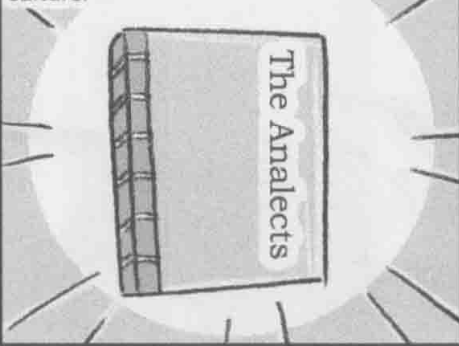


# NO ONE CAN TRULY UNDERSTAND TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE OR THE INNER WORLD OF ANCIENT CHINESE WITHOUT STUDYING THE ANALECTS

Confucius is regarded as a unique figure and great sage in China.



*The Analects* is a classic of ancient Chinese culture.



Thousands of years after Confucius' death, thinkers, writers, and politicians have been influenced by the master's book.



No one could truly understand traditional Chinese culture,



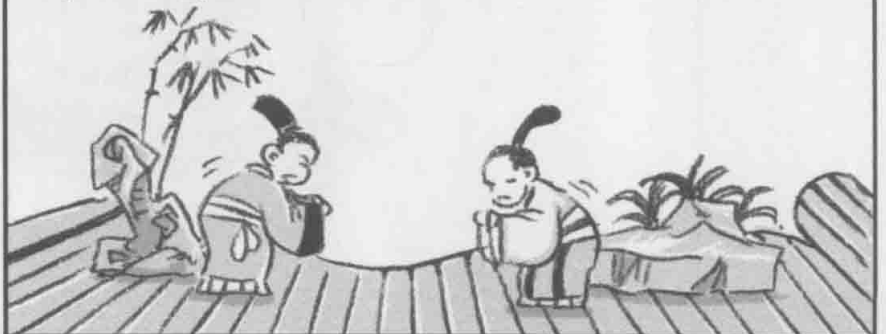
or the inner world of ancient Chinese without studying *The Analects*.

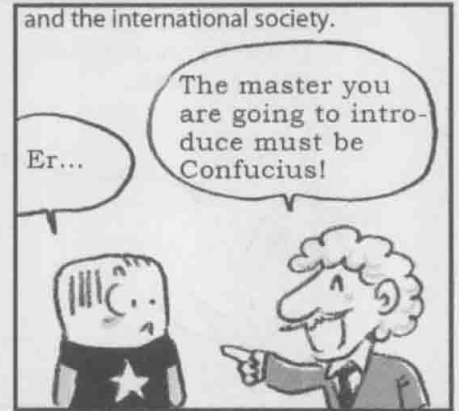
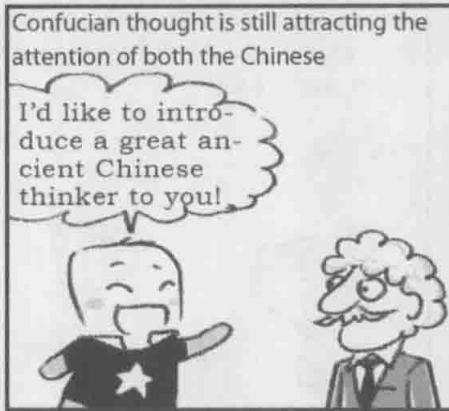
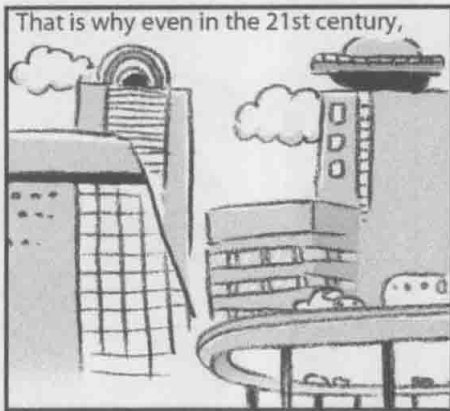


Confucian thought represents universal human values.

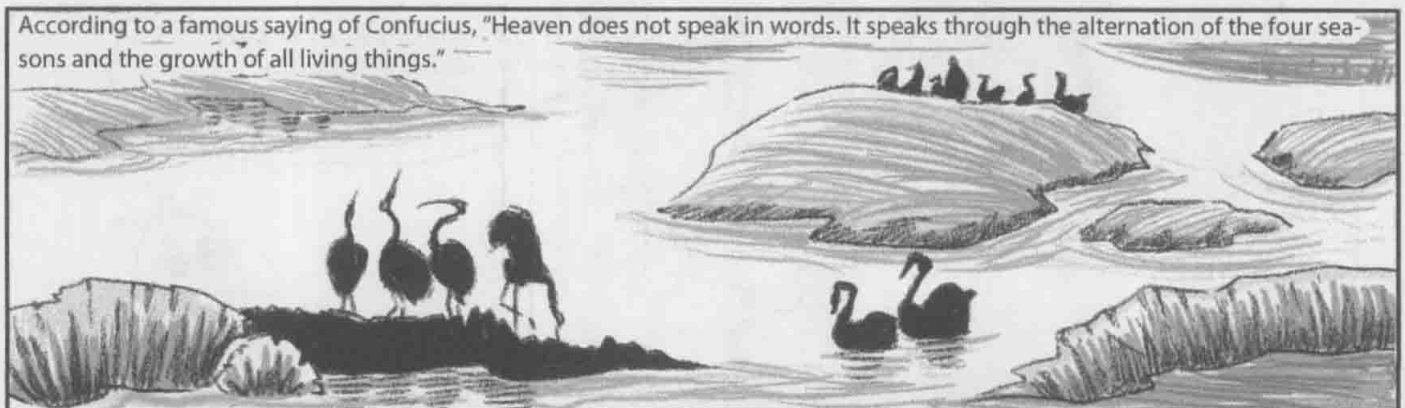
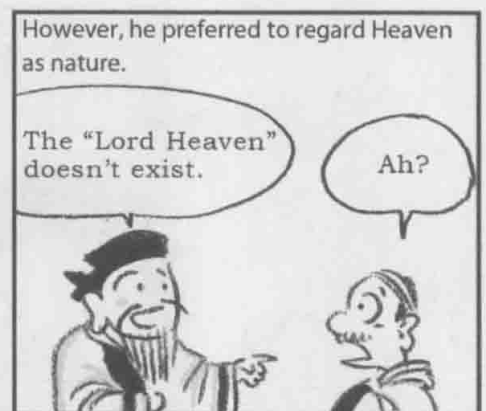
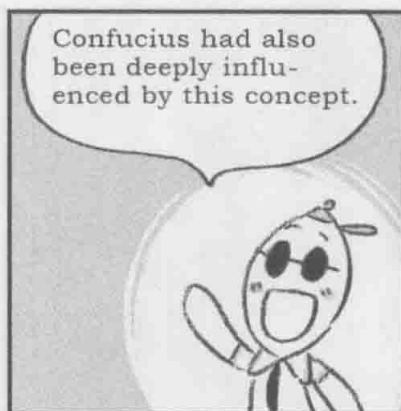


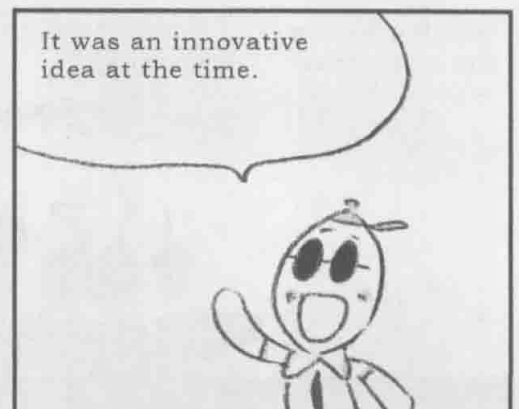
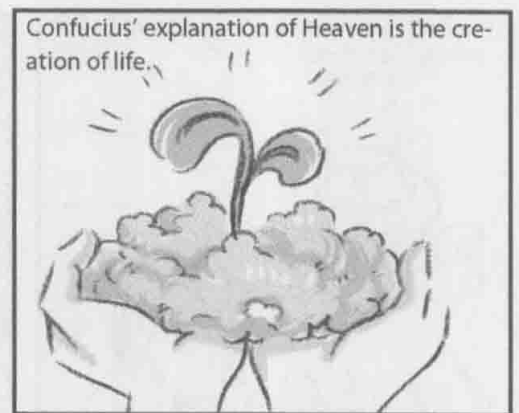
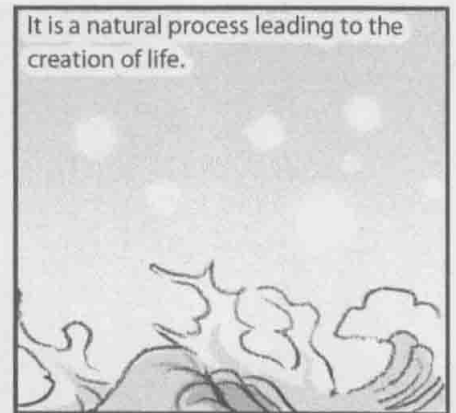
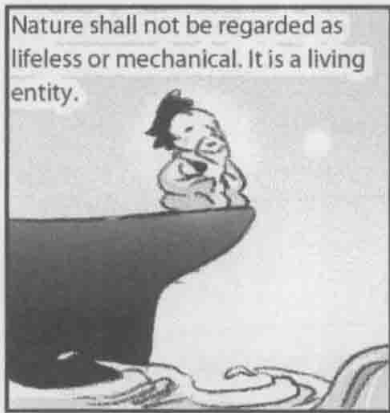
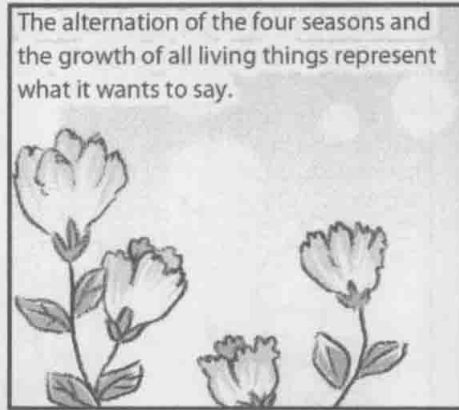
Modern American scholar Herbert Fingarette said that he found brotherhood and public beauty in *The Analects*.



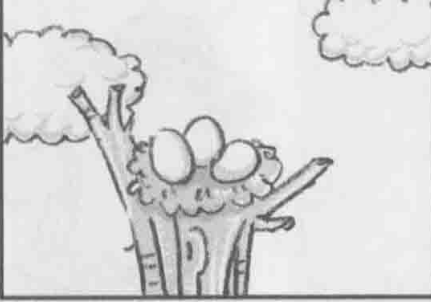


Heaven: the Source of Life

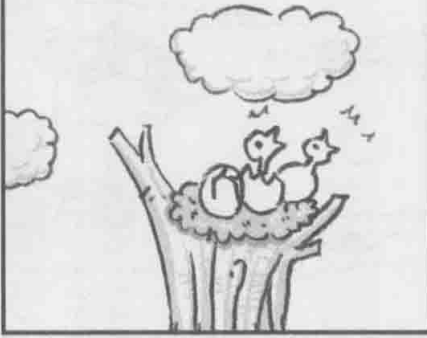




Confucius considered that the natural process of life creation could reveal the true message of Heaven.



The fundamental meaning of Heaven is "life."



This is the "way of Heaven."



Heaven is the natural process of life creation and the source of all living things and values. This is the "virtue of Heaven."



As the evolutionary process of life creation, Heaven has its innate purpose:



to create and nurture all things,

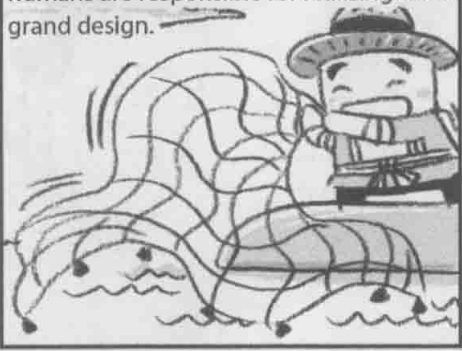


to protect and improve all things.





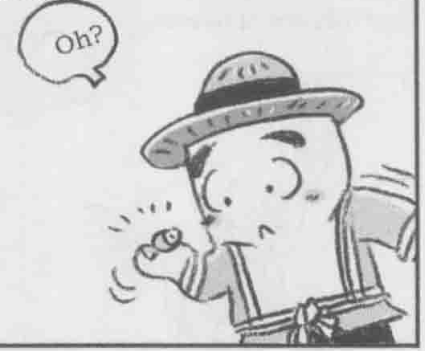
Humans originated from Heaven, so humans are responsible for realizing this grand design.



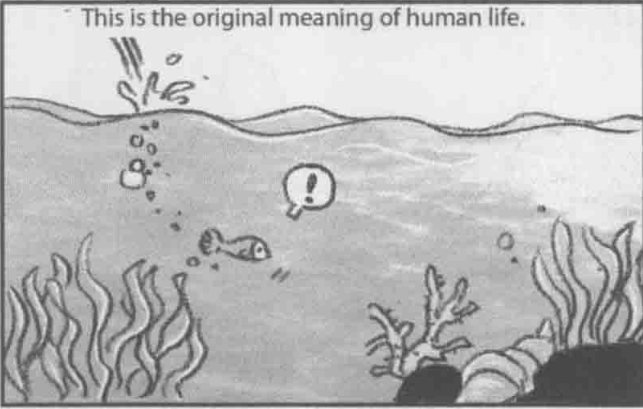
This is humans' sacred mission.



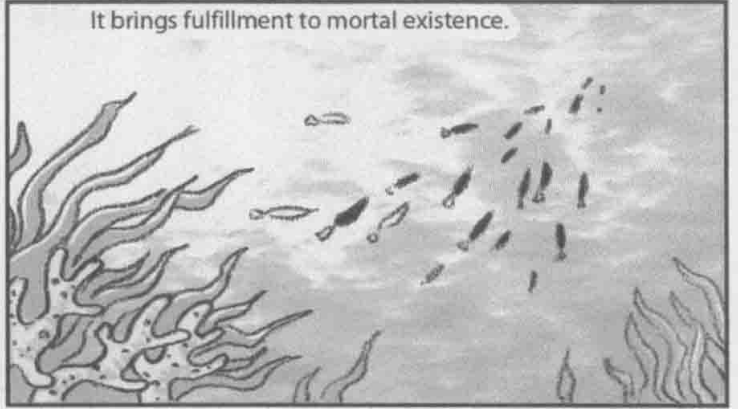
In other words, it is a "heavenly mission."



This is the original meaning of human life.



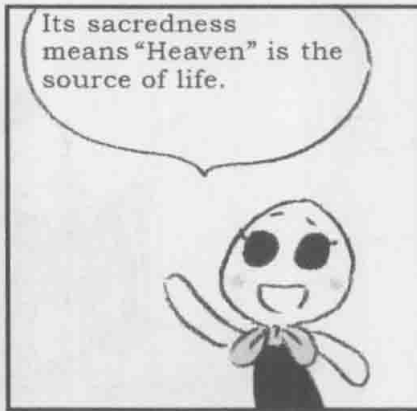
It brings fulfillment to mortal existence.



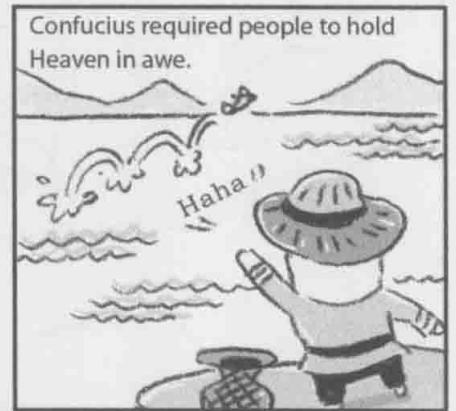
Confucian "Heaven" has a sacred element.



Its sacredness means "Heaven" is the source of life.



Confucius required people to hold Heaven in awe.



He said that a person of virtue should "respect his heavenly mission." The deep sense of respect also comes from the knowledge that "Heaven" is the source of life. A person of virtue should listen to and live up to the design of Heaven.

