The background of the slide is a light beige, textured surface resembling aged paper. It is decorated with numerous black ink splatters and dots of varying sizes, primarily concentrated on the left side and scattered across the upper half of the page. The main title is centered in the lower half of the image.

# Confucianism

The Basics II

# Goals

- Confucius' Project
- Ethics or Religion?
- 5 Key Concepts (Jen, Chun Tzu, Li, Te, Wen)
  - Rectification of Names
  - Doctrine of Means
  - 5 Constant Relationships
- Key Terms
  - "Mandate of Heaven"
  - "Right to Revolution"
  - "Hsin"

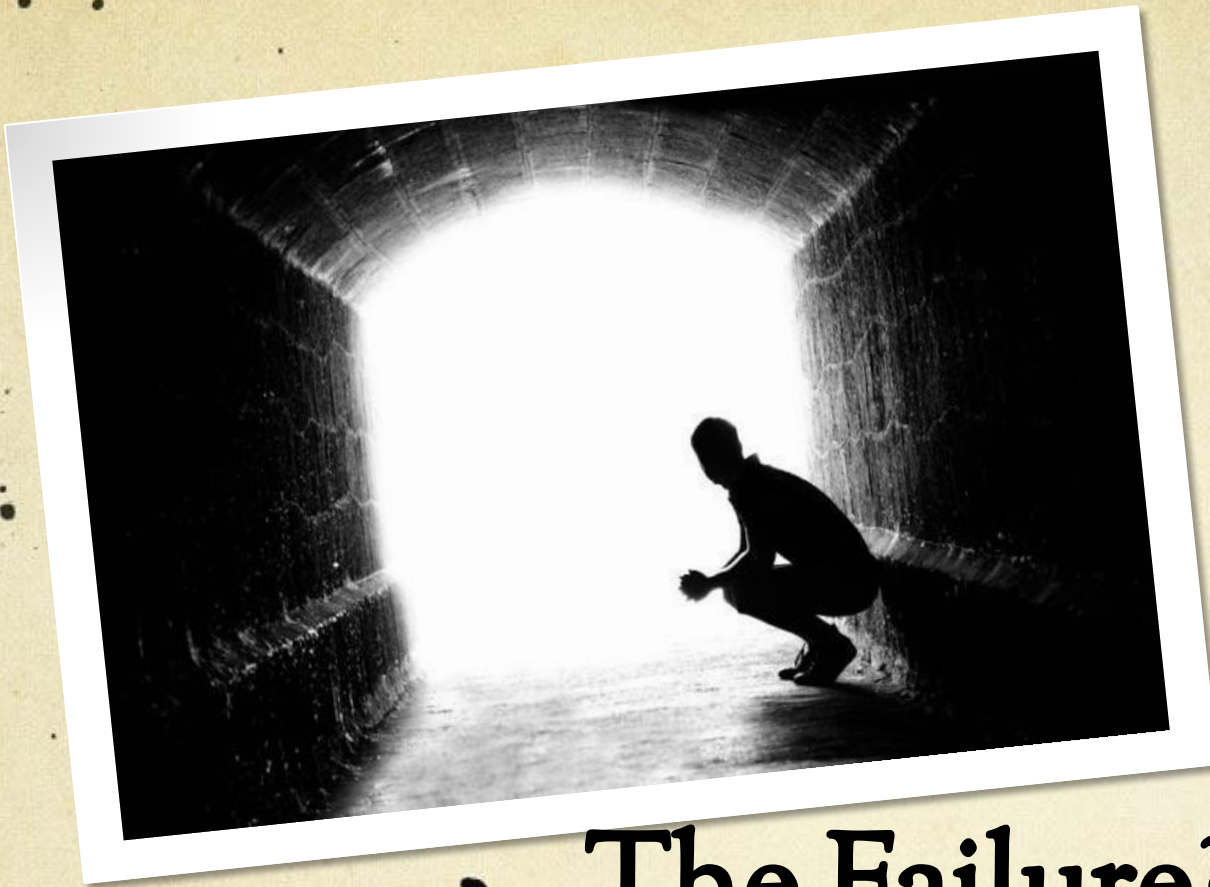




# Confucius (Kong Qio)

- Born 551 BC, Lu Province
- Known as the “first teacher” of China.
- Fatherless at 3 years old. This causes much strife.





# The Failure?

- C's dream was to change Chinese society.
- He believed China needed real reform and unity.
- Wanted a powerful role in government, but never received one.





# Lasting Impact

- Education: Students honored a picture of Confucius in classrooms for 2000 years.
- Government: His teachings were required reading for centuries.
- Eventually, some elevate Confucius to status of god.





# China is Confucius' time

- 800-300 BC = End of Chou Dynasty
- 500-400 BC = Period of Warring States
- Local rulers seek control = mass slaughter
- Chinese civilization is falling apart.



*tradition*

TRA•DI•TION: 1. a time-honored practice  
2. the passing down of elements of a culture  
from generation to generation  
3. an inherited, established, or customary  
pattern of thought, action, or behavior

# Traditions and Norms hold societies together.

- “Patterns simply take shape over centuries, during which generations fumble their way toward satisfying mores and away from destructive ones (161)”
- Translation?





THE BEGINNING OF A GREAT TRADITION.

# 21 Powers of Tradition

- (1) Traditions keep bad social actions in check. Examples?
- (2) No written rule/law for traditions. (this shows how strong they are)



# Tradition in Confucius' China

- Rise of Individualism: “What’s in it for me?”
- Reason replaces social norms.
- “X is tradition” is no longer good enough reason to X.



Never forget that only dead fish swim with the stream.







# Solutions to Problems:

Realists: People are naturally bad.

So China needs many rules, regulations and ways of keeping track of people to maintain order.

Mohism: Showing love is God's work.

So, we should practice love and love each other equally.





# Confucius' Reply

Realists: Too crude and clumsy.

- You can force order through rules, but you'll never inspire people with them.

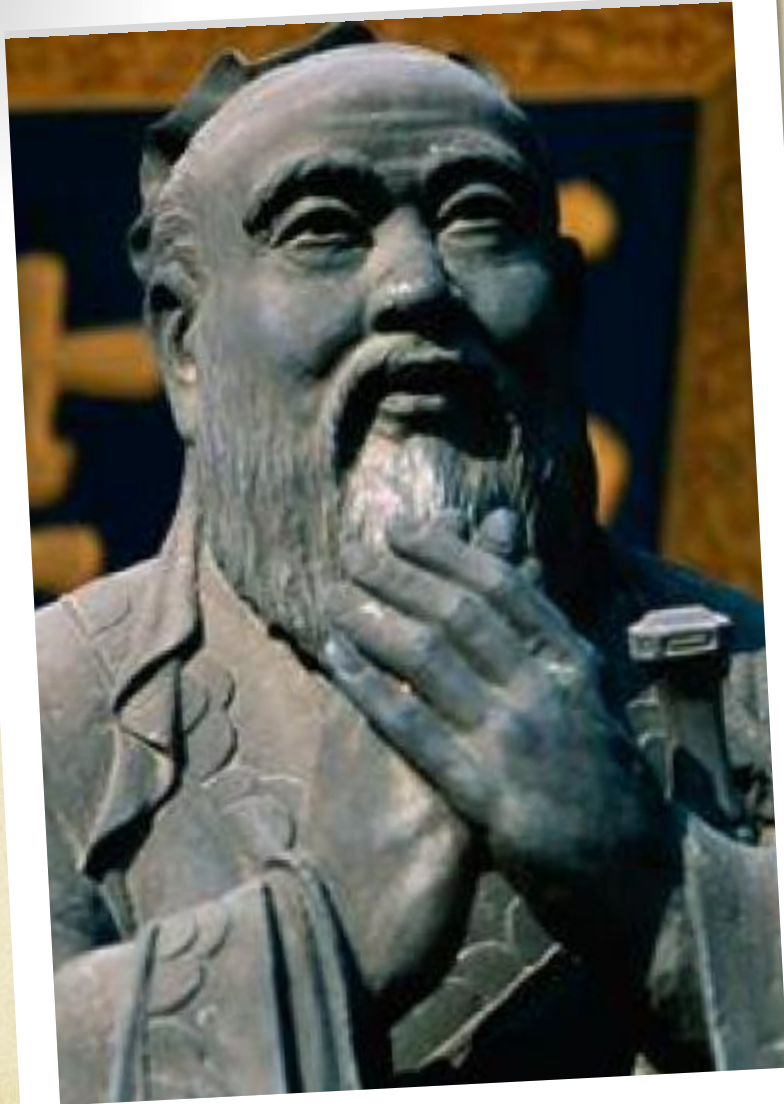
Mohism: Too utopian.

- Great result, but how do we get there? Where's the method?

Confucius: Let's find a







# Confucius' Solution

- Create intentional traditions by looking to the past for success.
- Take what works and leave what doesn't.
- “Age of Grand Harmony” = Chou Dynasty ~1000 BC.





# But...

Q: How do we create norms on purpose?

A: Educate people on the right ways of living.

Q: Technique?

A: Patterns of Prestige.



# Patterns of Prestige

- Leaders admire some X.
- Followers admire the leader, so they admire X.



## Examples:

- “I will not tell a lie” – George Washington
- “I have a dream” – MLK
- “Human beings are good by their nature” - Confucius





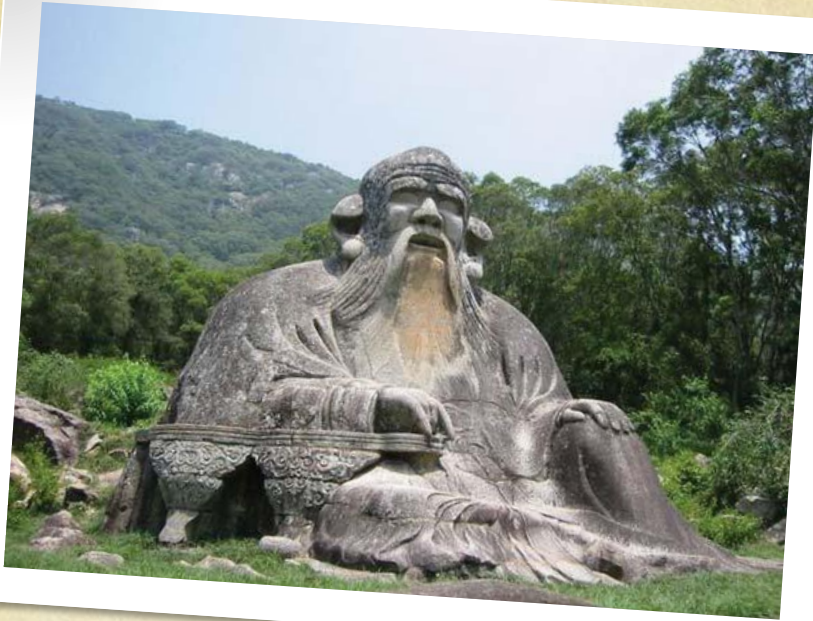
KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
follow the  
leader

## Patterns of Prestige

- If people admire you, and you admire X...
- People admire X.
- So...you must be the kind of person worth admiring!

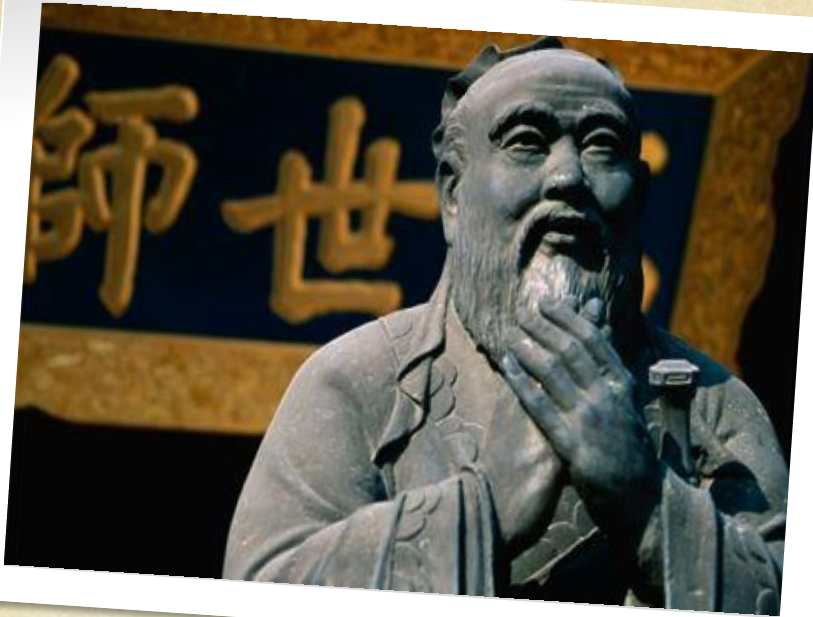
# Confucian Project

- Peace through education on good behavior.
- Practice becoming more human.
  - Inside: Awareness of self-improvement
  - Outside: Quality of our relationships
- Becoming the ideal human happens with others – Not a solo journey.



“Education breeds confidence.  
Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace.”  
- Confucius





# Ethics or Religion?

- Chinese Supernatural:
  - Heaven: Ancestors
  - Earth: People still here
- Confucius: Don't ignore heaven, but focus on people.
- Goal: Respect your bloodline by living as the ideal person.



# 5 Key Concepts

- Jen
- Chun tzu
- Li
- Te
- Wen





# 5 Key Concepts

- Jen: “Human Heartedness”
- Chun tzu: “Mature Person”
- Li: “Proprietary,” “Ritual”
- Te: “Ruling Power”
- Wen: “Art of Peace”



**“Respect  
Yourself  
And Others  
Will Respect  
You.”**

The Fresh Quotes

## **“Jen” (Human Heartedness)**

- Ideal way of being in the world.
- Practicing self-respect and equal dignity.
- “If you want X, you should practice X with others.”





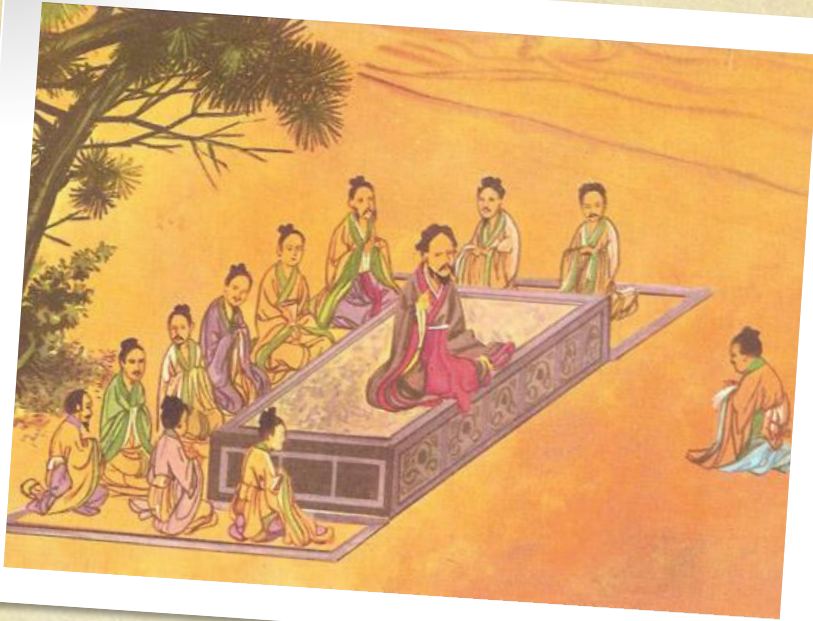
# “Chun tzu” (Mature Person)

- Describes the ideal kind of person.
- Opposite of petty, mean, selfish.
- Like the ideal host: polite, generous, tactful.
- JW: If not you, then who? If not now, then when?





# “Li” (2 Meanings)

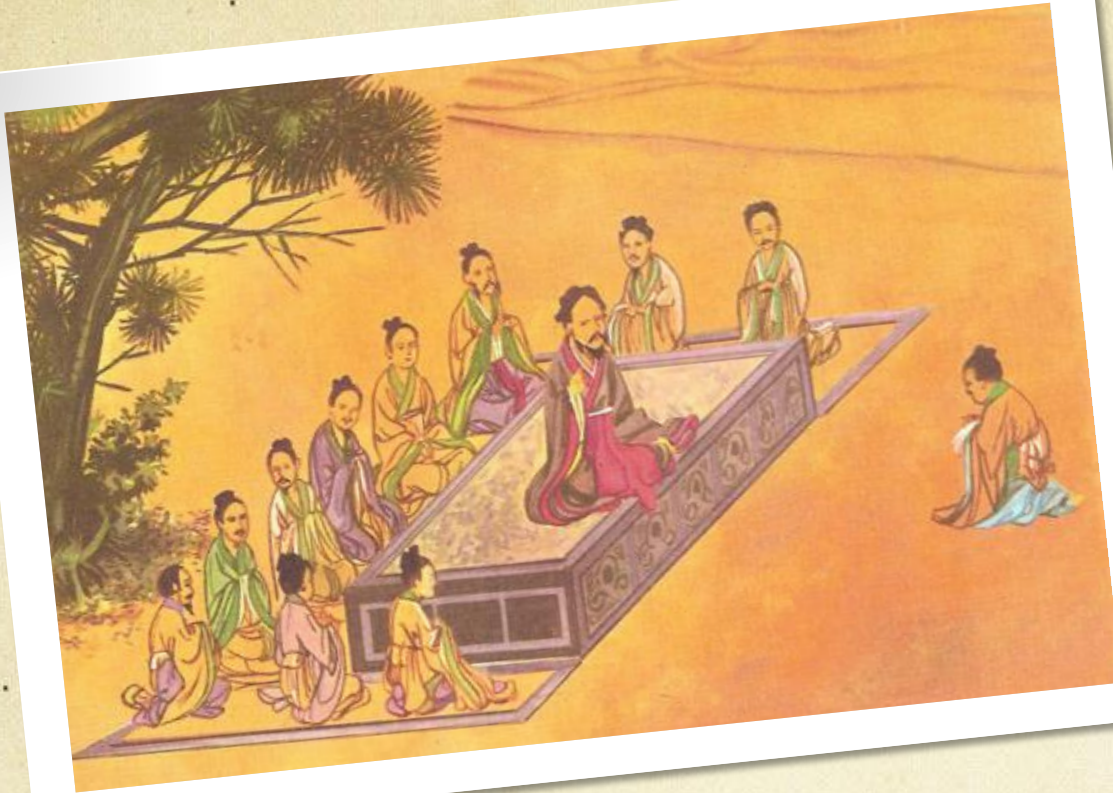


- Propriety – Appropriateness
  - There should never be a question of the right thing to say or right way to act.
- Ritual
  - There are patterns to every act.
  - Mastering the patterns of good behavior build a good society.

禮 **li:**

propriety, ritual, order, manners





# Li: Propriety

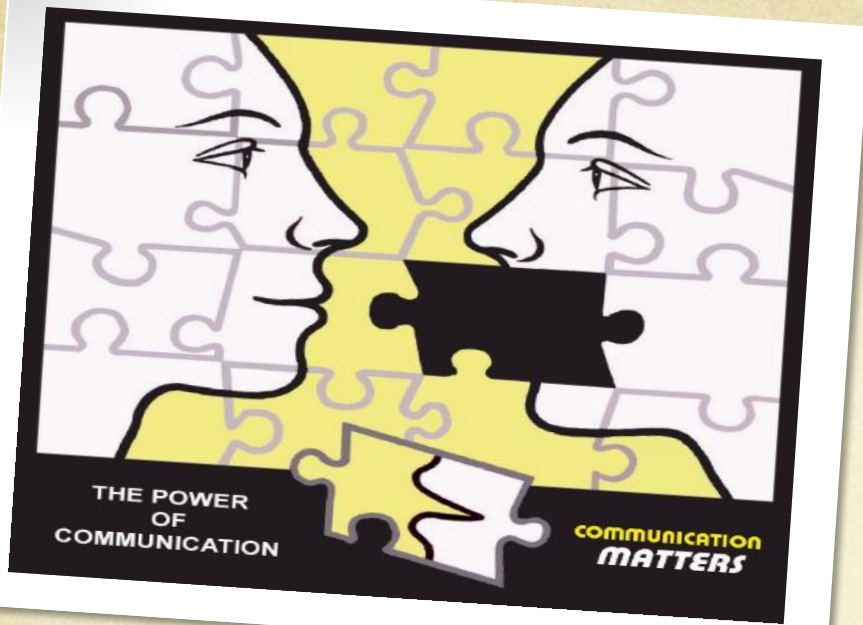
We learn and practice proper behavior through:

- Rectification of Names
- Doctrine of the Mean
- 5 Constant Relationships

# Rectification of Names (Language)

- A good society always has good communication.
- So we must know exactly what words mean.
- But the words should also mean the right things.
- This is because language affects our relationships.

Ex. JW's Homework.



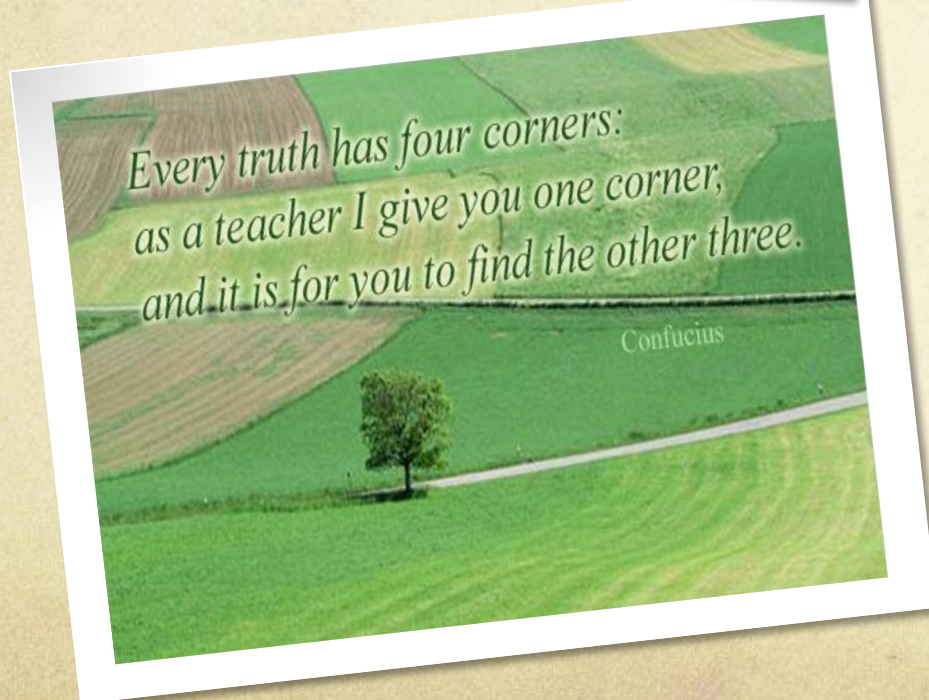
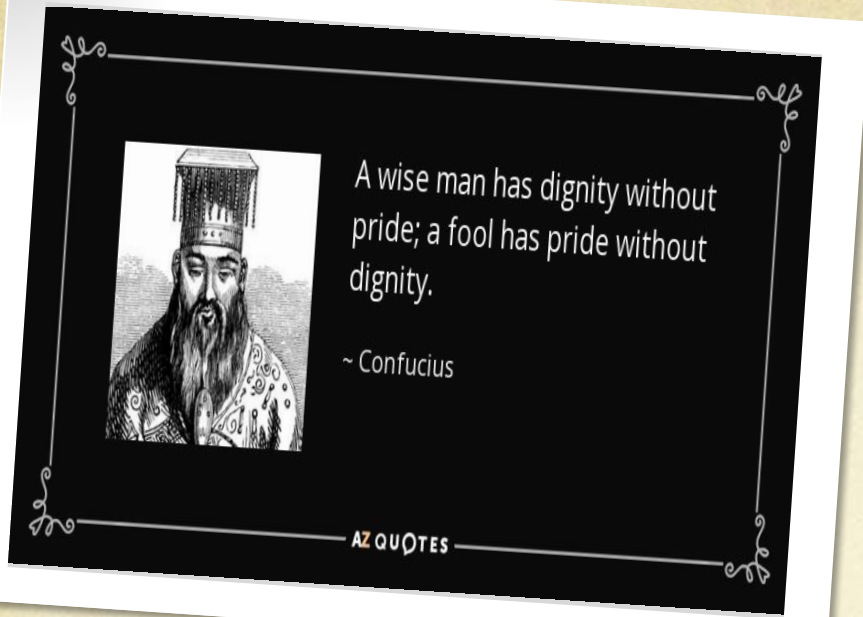
**Tact :**

the ability to do or say things without offending or upsetting other people



# Doctrine of the Mean (Middle)

- Like Buddha's "Middle Way":
- Too much X = Bad
- Be confident, not arrogant.
- Be humble, not scared.
- Be quick, but don't hurry.
- A society that is sensitive to balance wins out in the end.





## 5 Constant Relationships

1. Ruler – Subject
2. Father – Son
3. Husband – Wife
4. Elder – Junior
5. Friend – Friend

“Without feelings of respect, what is there to distinguish men from beasts?”  
Confucius



### BELIEFS OF CONFUCIANISM: 5 RELATIONSHIPS

- Ruler-Subject
- Father-Son
- Husband-Wife
- Elder Brother-Younger
- Friend-Friend

## 5 Constant Relationships

- Young honor the old, not just out of obligation.
- Respect should be earned, not given\* (often abused)
- Starts with the self:
  - I respect myself by respecting my family.
  - I honor my family by being a good representative in the community.
  - I honor my community by being a good citizen in the world.

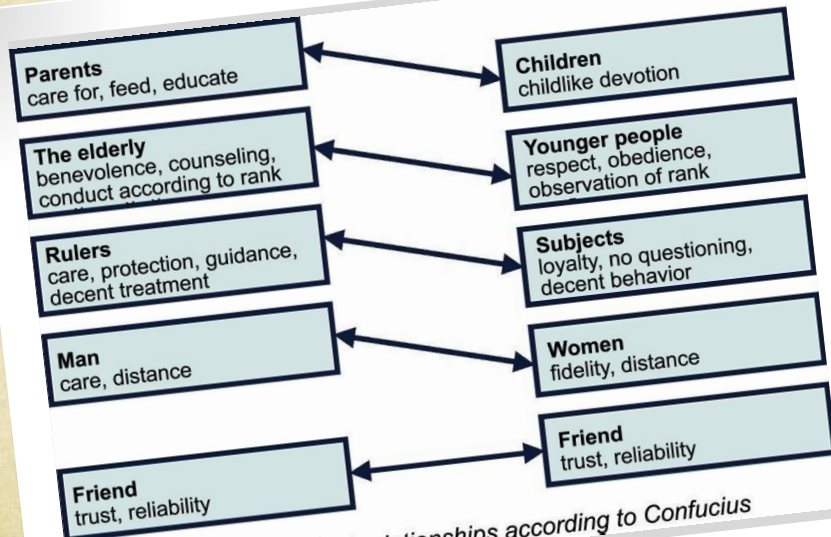


Figure 2: The five cardinal relationships according to Confucius



# Li: Ritual

- Can we see how ritual matters now?
- There are patterns to every action.
- Practicing good patterns = good action.
- Good Action = Good Society.





# “Te” (Ruling Power)

There are 3 keys to governing:

- Military Strength
- Economic Stability
- Trust of the People
  - “Mandate of Heaven”
  - “Right of Revolution”







# Mandate of Heaven

- Ruler has the right to the subjects' loyalty...
- As long as the ruler puts the interests of the subjects first..
- And has the skill to get things done.





A portrait of Marie Antoinette is shown with a torn-edge effect, overlaid on a background of red and white diagonal stripes. To her left is a large, bold, white text graphic with a black outline that reads "LET THEM EAT CAKE".

**"LET THEM  
EAT CAKE"**

# Right to Revolution

- If the ruler doesn't think of his/her people, then there is no mandate.
- "Heaven sees as the people see; Heaven wills as the people will"



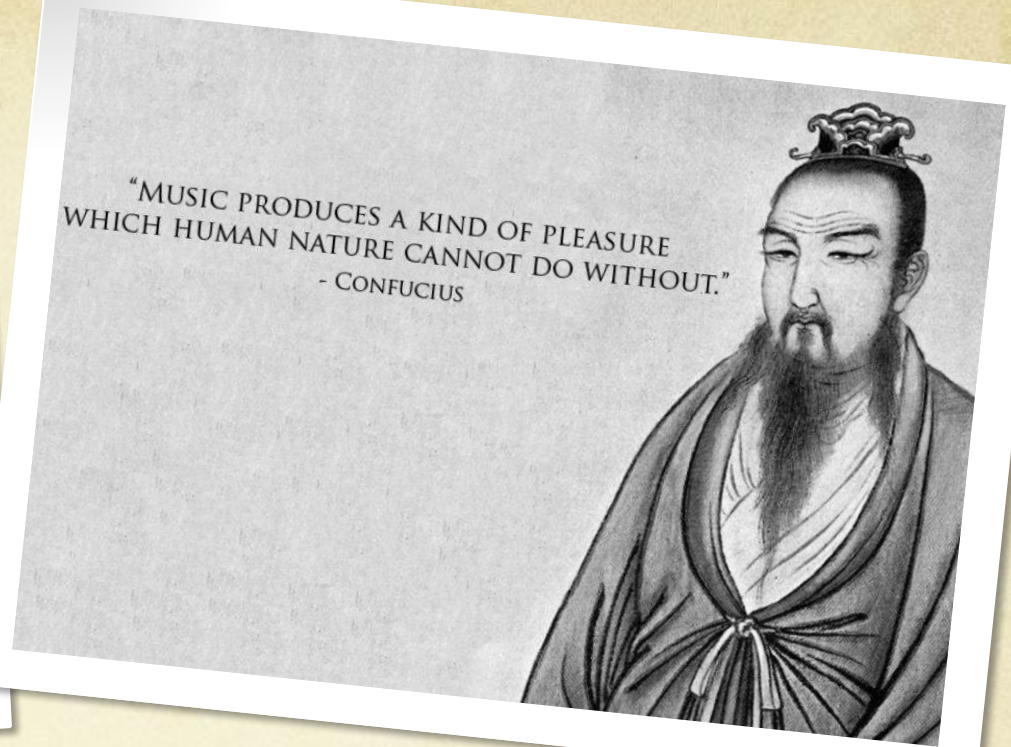


# “Wen” (Art of Peace)

- Not “Art of War”.
- Confucius: People who do not care about art are half-human.
- Q: How is art related to a good society?







# Why Art?

- Not just art for art's sake.
- Art has the power to transform human nature.
- Art reveals the virtues to us.



# Wen (Art of Peace)

- Confucius: Great civilizations produce great culture (art, music, literature).
- So, the greatest civilization = civilization with greatest culture.

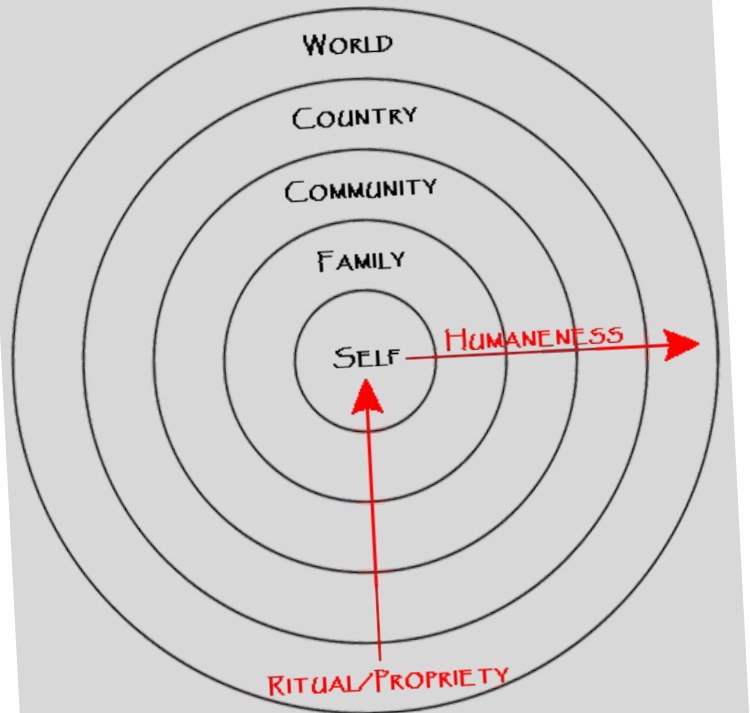




# Hsin

## (Heart-Mind”

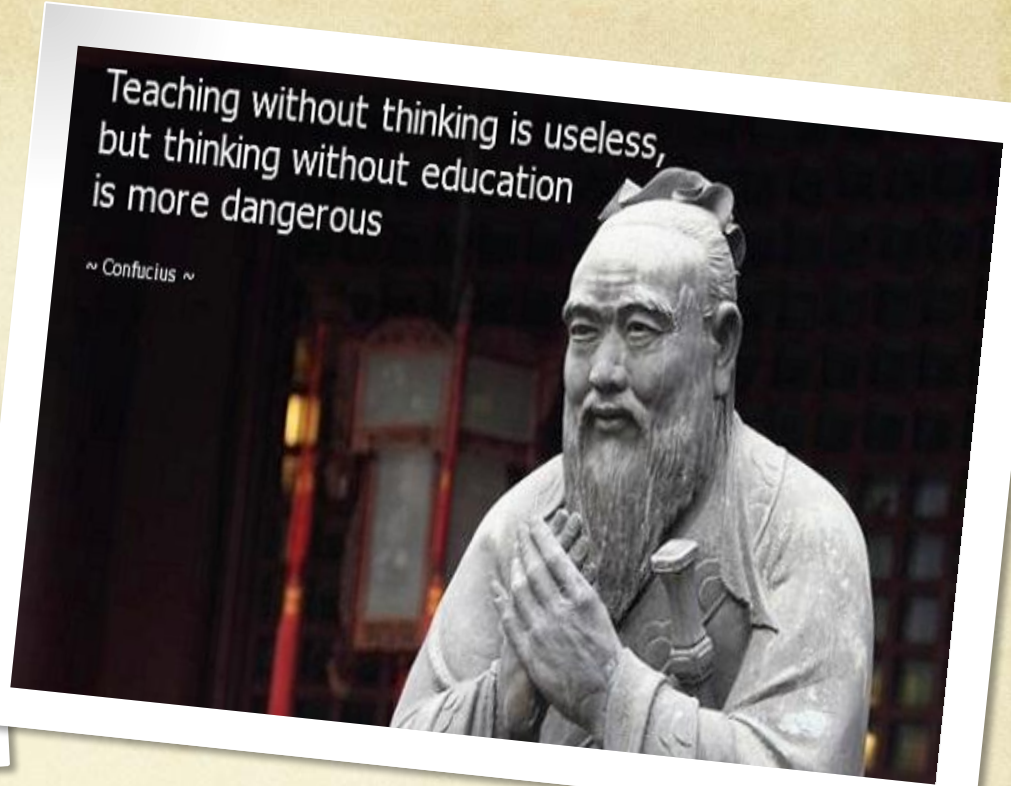
- Usually a heart-shaped drawing.
- Concentric circles of relations
- Starts with the self, not self-interest...remember inside and outside.



Wherever  
you go, go  
with all  
your heart.  
—  
CONFUCIUS

Teaching without thinking is useless,  
but thinking without education  
is more dangerous

~ Confucius ~



## Hsin (Heart-Mind”

- We learn the right ways of acting and speaking.
- We practice acting well and speaking well.
- We do this to show self-respect and respect for others.



Wherever  
you go, go  
with all  
your heart.  
—  
CONFUCIUS

Teaching without thinking is useless,  
but thinking without education  
is more dangerous

~ Confucius ~



## Hsin (Heart-Mind”

- By focusing on ourselves and others, we build good families.
- Good families = Good communities.
- Good communities = Good society, country, world.



# Recap

- Confucius' Project
- Concepts: Jen, Chun tzu, Li, Te, Wen
  - Rectification of Names
  - Doctrine of the Mean
  - 5 Constant Relationships
- Terms:
  - "Mandate of Heaven"
  - "Right to Revolution"
  - "Hsin"





# End of Confucianism II

