

with great power, comes great responsibility



I-Ching & The World of Metaphysics

Confucianism versus Daoism

Confucianism was popularised by Confucius in the era of *Spring and Autumn*, dated back B.C 551-479. It was recorded in the history as a proper set of *Ideology Thinking or Philosophy*. Confucius had set the pace for **education is for all** not only confined or exclusively to the elite few and government officials at that time. His biggest contribution at that time was to let all human beings to have education as long as the desire to learn is burning. (有教無類).

The fundamental teaching of Confucian is about building inner as well as external values of a person, to interact harmoniously with people. Values such as filial piety, trustworthiness, etiquette and camaraderie are preached. The core context was built surrounding relationships between ruler and residence, between husband and wife and between father and son should be in a proper protocol and thus the virtues of benevolence, justice, etiquette, wisdom and trustworthiness should be in place (仁義禮智信).

Confucianism differs from religions and Daoism in the context surrounding Universal, Science, Mother Nature and Society. Confucianism only placed emphasis on the eternal subjects human and social interaction.

Daoism was popularised by Laotse at the late of *Spring and Autumn* era. At the beginning of Han era Daoism was termed as Dao De Jia (道德家). Beside Daoism, there were five more schools of thoughts mushroomed at that time, such as Confucianism, Mo Jia (墨), Ming Jia (名), Fa Jia (法) and Yin Yang Jia (陰陽). The teaching of Daoism is the blending of these 5 others' teachings and philosophy. The famous icons in the Daoism School are Laotse, Chuangtse, and Huang Lao sect. The main focal point was to build a stronger and healthy both body and mind to achieve longevity (治身) and thus rule a county (治國).

Daoism places great emphasis on building a healthy body with less materialistic (輕物重身) while Confucianism building on better soul. Daoism does not directly believe that the Heaven (天) is with 'intention' but to go with the flow of Mother Nature-The Way of Dao (道). Dao preaches *Mother Nature* more than any other schools. Laotse has further elaborated that Dao is the source of creation for universe and therefore is the main ruler for the Universe and its activities. Daoism was the pioneer in studying the concept of Universe and materials beings, this is the biggest contribution of Daoism to mankind. For simplicity sake please find below some of the Laotse teachings: One should uphold 'nothingness' (人要無為), weak is to avoid competing (柔弱就能謙下不爭) and Stupidity is to harness substance (愚魯就能棄華取實)



Daoism stress the importance of life over material, fame and fortune should not be the ultimate goal for human beings. Fame and fortune is meaningless if one is living without the spirit of Dao.

Western Han Historian Ser Ma Tan acknowledged that Taoist teaching has gathered other schools' unique teaching as a blend and became the perfect school of thought at that point on time.

By Kerby Kuek

