

Confucius 2010 Movie

Biographical Drama

Notes by Dr Steven Martin for in-class discussion

- Reflecting on the Duke of Chou
- He seeks political position and social order
- Defining the rights of the common people
- Pagan rituals (uncivilized behavior)
- Ji Pinzi Burial - the servants and animals are sacrificed
- Society is a type of family order.
- He is incorruptible by the military leader
- Ritual for the pheasant "the will of heaven"
- "Benevolence"
- Duke of Chou - "ethics"
- Filial Piety
- Do not impose on others what you do not do yourself (Golden/silver rule)

Warring states

Lu and Qi state treachery

"Yan Hui" is Confucius disciple

Confucius is a military tactician

Expert in archery - the archers match.

"A diligent student needs no teacher"

"Pure heart - pure shot"

Confucius had no father

The alliance meeting was an ambush

- Confucius was correct
- "Zhou protocols"
- "Respect and abandon"
- "A gentlemen words are golden"
- Zhou ancestral
- Confucius is a hero

King of Wei

- his son (a prince) wants political power
- The King of Wei seeks Confucius to come
- Confucius has no noble blood line
- Confucius gets a promotion
- He sticks to tradition at formal meetings

Confucius is a calligrapher

“Rotten wood is hard to carve” (the drunk helper)

Confucius is a long-term thinker

- Bring down the city walls in accordance with the Duke of Chou
- Less power to the ministers if they have no city wall

Qufu is the capital of Lu

- the warlord attacks to find/kill Confucius and the king
- Confucius defend with hot oil/fire
- Confucius looks deeply saddened
- Now they take down the walls of Biyi

Confucius “high principles” - stick to your principles

The king refuses to bring down more walls

- Confucius meets Lao Tzu
- “Accomplish everything by doing nothing”
- “Be like water”
- But Confucius has his own path to follow

The king sends Confucius a “parted Jade” (parting gift)

- This means he is relieved of his post
- Confucius leaves in the rain alone
- He struggles - it may symbolize he is just a man
- Confucius wonders the land
- Yan Hui is waiting
- Confucius asks where did I go wrong
- If a man cannot change the world
- He can change himself
- Confucius disciples come and follow him
- 407 Confucius leaves Lu and wonders state to state

King of Wei welcomes him

- Asks for advice
- Confucius says the problem is poor moral order

The Emperor’s women Nanzi

Confucius - to no avail

“In true love there is no evil” - the underlying point in the book of poems

She bows to Confucius

Confucius leaves Wei

Nanzi is murdered - she remembers the words of Confucius

Confucius teaches his wisdom to his disciples

- Poetry, books, ethics...

Now Qufu is under attack

- the head minister request Confucius to return

Yan Hui returns to Lu to help

Confucius and his men are starving

“Only in winter does the pine tree show its true strength”

- Confucius plays music

- they share the last food

“Harmony and civility in Government”

Confucius says to look at yourself and maintain propriety

A winter storm moves in - they travel with their books

- the ice cracks, Yan Hui falls in and is saving the books - he dies

Confucius is troubled

When a gentlemen dies he should retain his dignity

The top minister of Lu sends a white “ring of Jade”

Confucius says “I’ll go back” - “But I only want to teach”

484 BC - Confucius returns

He now manages books - his last hope is his book

“Pack up the books and have them delivered” (the Spring and Autumn Annuals)

End of the movie – on screen text

- 479 BC Confucius dies at 73
- Confucius – the pioneer of making education available to all
- His disciples all over the world
- Has earned him the title of “Sage of the Ages”
- Confucius and his doctrines crystalize the many facets of China’s ancient civilization and become a symbol for it
- It sets the standard in politics, morality and philosophy, and has had the most profound and lasting influence on China

- Confucius is recognized as the greatest thinker, scholar and educator of our time.

Reflections

- Confucius left his family behind to address his quest
- He found humanity in his students
- In his time, the moral climate was not good – the people need education
- His life was a struggle
- He was of common blood
- Issues of the legalistic society of his time – also barbaric rituals