

**Confucius (K'ung Ch'iu). *Analects* (Lun yu). Translated by D. C. Lau. London: Penguin Books Ltd., 1979.**

Confucius (K'ung Ch'iu) (551-479 B.C.) was a Chinese political theorist and teacher of a social ethic. The *Analects* is a book of aphorisms, compiled by students of Confucius. It consists in twenty short chapters, each of which contains various sayings of the Master or his more important students.

How does the *gentleman* differ from the *small man*? The gentleman knows the Way (*tao*) and virtue (*te*), and seeks to perfect his own character, to be as good a man as possible. The small man knows his own profit and much anxiety. The gentleman is above all *benevolent*, seeking goodness for its own sake and working for the benefit of others. Different dangers plague the various periods of life: in youth, feminine beauty; in middle age, bellicosity; in old age, acquisitiveness. But where the gentleman seeks to grow in benevolence throughout life, increasing age brings increasing self-mastery. These things help the gentleman grow in benevolence: the rites (where those rites may have merit), music, excellent friends who are virtuous, trustworthy, and knowledgeable, knowing and keeping within one's limitations, circumspection in one's language, balance in one's opinions, and constant learning. The gentleman does not impose on others what he himself does not desire. (Book XV, §24.) The obligation to love others decreases as one's intimacy with persons diminishes. The obligation to love declines as one moves from family, to neighbors, to fellow villagers, to members of one's own class, and finally to members of other classes. The gentleman exhibits flexible intelligence, inquisitiveness, courage, a thirst to question and learn, especially about himself and his short-comings, self-restraint, even-handedness with others, tolerance, trustworthiness, and an orientation toward action. Ultimately, a gentleman must enter government office, and there be a moral beacon by working for the welfare of the common people. The welfare of commoners is the measure of a ruler.