



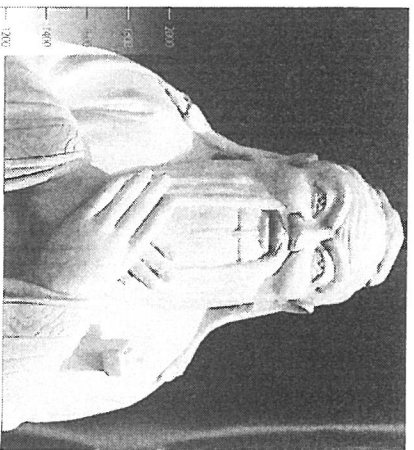
# Chinese Religion

It is not authoritarian patriarchy that stands at the centre of the teaching of Confucius, but what is truly human.

Humanity (*ren*) in the sense of loving care, goodness, benevolence, is the ethical term that is used most frequently of all in the Analects of Confucius.

Humanity could very well also be the basis today for a fundamental ethic – not only in China, but in humankind as a whole. According to Confucius, humanity is to be understood as **mutuality** (*shu*), as mutual respect, as he explains it in the Golden Rule: **What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others.**

Good and evil can be distinguished by the basic norm of **true humanity** in a quite elementary way, one that is valid for all. For the Chinese there is nothing beyond good and evil. Confucius is said to have remarked that there are only two ways: **humanity or inhumanity.**



Confucius

## The foundations of Confucian ethics are FIVE BASIC RELATIONSHIPS

- Superior – subordinate
- Father – son
- Older brother – younger brother
- Husband – wife
- Friend – friend

## Confucian VIRTUES

- Proper behaviour (*li*)
- Humanity (*ren*)
- Doing one's duty (*yi*)
- Knowing what is right (*shi*)
- Reciprocal care of others (*shu*)
- Respect, fulfilling the obligations of a child (*xiao*)

## THE MASTER SAID:

At fifteen, I bent my mind on learning; at thirty, I was established; at forty, I was free from delusion; at fifty, I knew the mandate of Heaven; at sixty, my ears became subtly perceptive; at seventy, I was able to follow my heart's desire without overstepping the rules of propriety. (*Confucius, Analects 2.4*)

To apply oneself to the duties of men and, while revering the spirits and gods, to keep away from them – this may be called wisdom. (*Confucius, Analects 6.22*)

A benevolent man extends his love for those he loves to those he does not love. (*Absolutely 79.1*)

Treat the aged of your own family in a manner befitting their venerable age and extend this treatment to the aged of other families. Treat your own young in a manner befitting their tender age and extend this to the young of other families. (*Absolutely 14.7*)

If a man is not humane, what can he do with the ritual? If a man is not humane, what can he do with music? (*Confucius, Analects 3.3*)



Carsun Chang



Kang Youwei



Mou Zung-san



Liang Qichao

Early Chinese culture, around 5,000 years old, is a shamanistic culture with a strong religious stamp, at the centre of which stands the veneration of ancestors and rites.

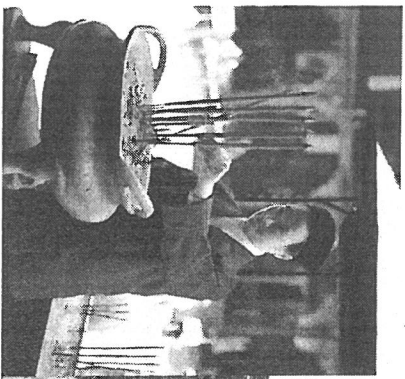
The era of Chinese humanism begins in China in the sixth century BC with the emergence of wisdom teachers – the most famous of them is Confucius. There is a transition from magical religion to a rationally centred or human beings and their ethical decisions.

To some degree as a counter movement to that, at this time Taoism arose. It is a return to nature and its harmony, inspired by the wisdom writing **Tao te Ching**, which is attributed to the legendary wise man Lao-tzu. This is a philosophical-mystical doctrine of the **Tao**, the way, the primal law and primal foundation of all being, in which human beings are to be embedded and with which they are to live in harmony.

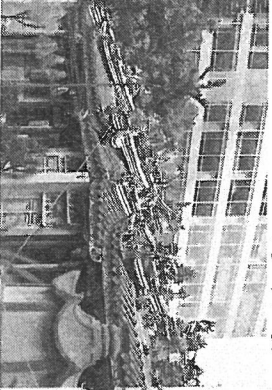
Later this became a separate religious movement which adopted many elements of the old Chinese religion.

There are about 1.3 billion Chinese, some of whom – in so far as they are religious at all – are Confucians or Taoists; others are Buddhists, Christians or Muslims.

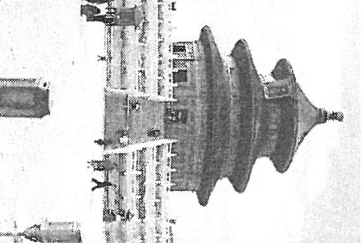
Taoist priestess



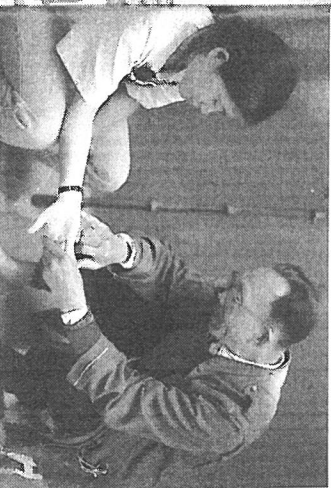
Yue Hai Qing temple, Singapore



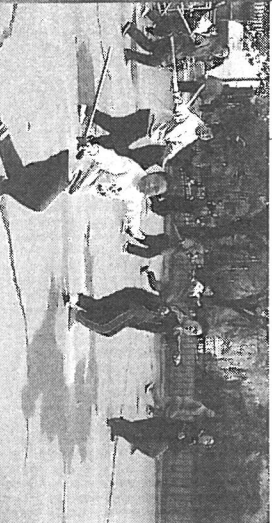
'Temple of heaven', Beijing



Fortelling from the hand



Morning Tai-chi meditation in Beijing



# BUDDHISM

- 1) Is Buddhism a religion?
- 2) What do Buddhists believe in?
- 3) Are there any gods in Buddhism?
- 4) What do you think when you see the image of Buddha?
- 5) What is the difference between Zen Buddhism and others such as Tibetan or Theravada (Thai) Buddhism?
- 6) How important is the Dalai Lama?
- 7) Are there any Buddhist holy books?
- 8) How important is meditation in Buddhism?
- 9) What do you know about Buddha?
- 10) What is Karma?

- 1) Do you believe in reincarnation?
- 2) What is Nirvana?
- 3) What are the important Buddhist days, ceremonies or festivals?
- 4) Do you think Buddhists are less violent than followers of other religions?
- 5) Who do Buddhists pray to and what do they pray for?
- 6) Why do Buddhists chant?
- 7) Why do Buddhists bow?
- 8) How has Buddhism affected the world?
- 9) Why are most Buddhists vegetarian?
- 10) Why is the Buddha fat?

## The Story of the Buddha's Enlightenment

The name 'Buddha' means 'the \_\_\_\_\_ one'. Buddhists follow the teachings of the Buddha, but do not believe him to be a god.

The Buddha was born \_\_\_\_\_ Gotama in around 580BC in the village of Lumbini in \_\_\_\_\_. He was a prince born into a rich family. When he was young he had an \_\_\_\_\_ life as he was protected from the harsh \_\_\_\_\_ of sickness, suffering and death.

The years passed. Siddhattha married and had a child, but found he was worried by many issues. He went outside the royal enclosure where he lived and went to \_\_\_\_\_ areas. For the first time he saw \_\_\_\_\_, sickness and \_\_\_\_\_.

He also saw a holy man. He made the decision to leave his wife, his baby son and his privileged life and began to search the world to find a higher truth or \_\_\_\_\_.

Siddhattha searched for a truth which would release him from the cycle of dying and \_\_\_\_\_ after death. He studied with wise teachers, practised \_\_\_\_\_ and lived a life of extreme self-denial and discipline, but still he did not find the answers he needed. The search took him six years, but Siddhattha found enlightenment whilst meditating under a \_\_\_\_\_ tree. Following this he became known as the Buddha and dedicated his life to spreading his message.

The Buddha came to understand that the answer lay in the '\_\_\_\_\_': living a life which is not luxurious or deprived. Buddhists believe they can escape the cycle of life and death and reach Nirvana by following the Middle Way through the \_\_\_\_\_ Noble Truths and the \_\_\_\_\_ Path.

poor	easy	Middle Way	Nirvana
Siddhattha	realities	rebirth	
Eightfold	old age	enlightened	Bodhi
Four	Nepal	death	meditation

# Judaism

**Judaism**

the religion of the Jewish people

**Jewish**

of or relating to Jews or their culture or religion: ex. a Jewish holiday, a Jewish food

**Jew**

a follower of Judaism

**Semitic**

Anything that originated in the Middle East

**monotheism**

the belief in one god

**polytheism**

the belief in many gods

**Hebrew**

language of Judaism

**Old Testament**

the first part of the Bible: tells the history and rules of the Jews

**New Testament**

the second part of the Bible: tells about the life of Jesus and his teachings: Jews do not believe in this part

**prophets**

people who receive messages from God and tell the messages to others

**patriarch**

A "founding father"; a man who starts something and leads the people

**Yahweh**

Hebrew name for God

**covenant**

an agreement between God and Abraham (and his family); God will protect them and make them a great nation and Abraham (and the Jews) will obey God and believe in only him

**synagogue/temple**

a building for worship for Jews

**Chosen People**

the people that God chose to be his special followers: The Jews

**rabbi**

Jewish religious leader

**sabbath**

a day of rest and worship: Saturday for most Jews

**kosher**

Jewish dietary laws: laws about what foods Jews can eat

**Holocaust**

the Nazi program of killing Jews under Hitler during World War II

**Bar Mitzvah**

When a Jewish boy reads from the Torah and becomes a man: ceremony at age 13

**Bat Mitzvah**

When a Jewish girl reads from the Torah and becomes a woman: ceremony at age 13

**Orthodox**

branch of Judaism: traditional, most rules, follow kosher rules; only men can be rabbis and only bar mitzvahs; speak Hebrew

**Reform**

branch of Judaism: more modern, less rules, women can be rabbis and allow bat mitzvahs; many do not follow kosher rules

**Conservative**

branch of Judaism: in between orthodox and reform

**Torah**

holy book of Judaism: first 5 books of the Old Testament

**Star of David**

a six pointed star symbolizing Judaism