



Mencius—A Benevolent Saint for the Ages



Zou County of Shandong Province today.

soaked up the atmosphere and a great respect for, and indeed expertise in, the whole area of rites and ceremonies developed in this young man.

In that decade, it was not easy for a widowed mother and son to move home. In having to move home twice, we can see the mother's absolute determination to find a favorable environment for her son. Naturally a person's ultimate success depends largely on their own natural abilities and the application they could bring to their work but nevertheless it cannot be denied that for a young person the environment in which they grow up is an enormous factor in their development. The environment that his mother chose for the



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young Mencius to grow up in was a profound influence in his eventually becoming a master of Confucianism.

A Wandering Scholar

In the 5th century BC, Zou, where Mencius lived, was a very small state. Some 100 kilometers away to the north lay the State of Lu. Confucius had lived in the State of Lu

Tablets of Idioms in the Mencius Temple.

Left to right: Place Where Mother of Mencius Broke the Loom to Talk Mencius Over to Study Hard, Temple of Mother of Mencius Making Three Moves for Better Neighborhood, and Place Where Zisi Wrote His Middle Way.

