



of tangible ethical moral standards.

Confucianism regards propriety as the basis for people to build their lives. It requires people to learn and follow the ethical codes consciously. Propriety plays an important piece in improving personal moral integrity, maintaining a harmonious interrelationship, and keeping a stable social order, etc. Chinese people have always been regarded as the people with good manners. However in ancient China, the influence of a feudal hierarchy and a privileged class had a lot of negative impacts that repressed humanism.

IV. Wisdom

Wisdom is rationality and intelligence. In Confucius ethical thoughts, wisdom mainly implies moral recognition and moral rationality. According to Confucius, "a wise man cannot be misled." The right moral recognition is the premise and assurance of right moral behavior. He integrated wisdom, benevolence and courage, as the basic quality of kind and upright men. Mencius regarded wisdom as the ability and concept distinguishing right from wrong. He proposed, "Wisdom is the sense between right and wrong." Dong Zhongshu emphasized equal importance of benevolence and wisdom. Confucian scholars from various dynasties all supported the importance of wisdom.

The basic function of wisdom is to distinguish right from wrong, and establish correct moral concepts. People are always put into a complex social life, where sometimes it's hard to distinguish right from wrong. Therefore it's necessary to analyze, judge and choose with rationality and wisdom. According to Confucianism, certain morality-like behaviors also existed with animals, such as the benevolence between father and son among tigers and wolves, the righteousness between father and son among bees and ants, yet

only human can consciously conduct moral behavior under the guidance of moral recognition. Confucianism regards wisdom as the tool to recognize other virtues.

V. Faith

Faith is a key principle of the traditional Chinese morality. It requires people to be honest, to act accordingly with words, and to keep a promise. Chinese people always associate faith with loyalty and sincerity as “Zhong Xin” and “Cheng Xin” (loyal and faithful, and honest and faithful). In the history of Chinese ideology, various schools of scholars have attached different degrees of importance to faith. Among them, Confucianism praises the “faith” the most.

According to Confucianism, it's the basic method to keep good faith in improving one's moral integrity. Confucius not only regarded faith as the base of a person's life, but also as the base of a nation. He believed that “a country will collapse if people have no faith in it”—without people's trust, the administration of a country won't be able to stand. Mencius further elevated the ethical principles of honesty

Hall of Great Achievements at the Confucian Temple in Qufu, Shandong; Chinese emperors of different period in ancient China respected for Confucius and his Confucianism.

