

先師孔子行教像



Aim: To what degree did  
Confucian philosophy create  
Chinese civilization?

# Roots of Philosophy: The Decline of the Zhou

- Zhou had been divided into many small kingdoms.
- Civil War breaks out in 403 B.C.
- “Period of the Warring States”



- During this time, Chinese philosophers wanted to create stability in society.
  - Create ideas about human relationships.
  - Become ideas behind Confucianism & Taoism



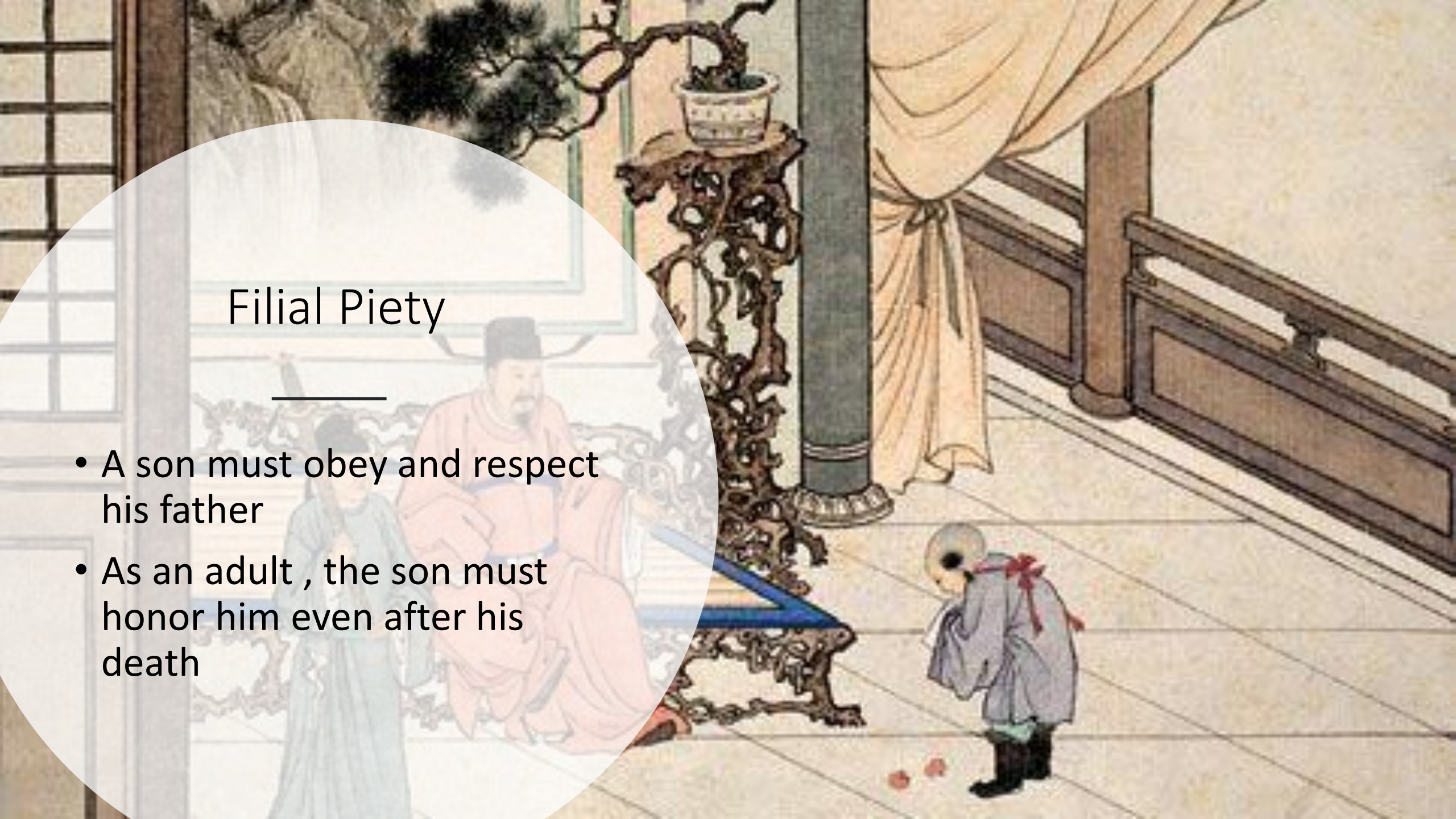
## The Life of Confucius

- Born in 551 B.C.E.
- Tried to convince warlords to lead their people by example.
- Returns to home-town to become a teacher
  - Teaches future leaders his ideas on ethics.
- Followers write the *Analects*

## Filial Piety

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- A son must obey and respect his father
- As an adult, the son must honor him even after his death



# Handouts: Confucian quotes



- Which quote do you find most interesting?
- How might Confucianism influence Chinese society?
- How is this philosophy similar or different to U.S. philosophy?

## Confucian Behavior

- Emphasized proper conduct and traditional ceremonies.
- Respect for social order



# Behavior

- Confucius believed there is an order in the universe.
  - Humans must act in harmony with this order.
- Two basic ideas:
  - Duty
    - *If everyone does their duty to the fullest, then society will prosper.*
  - Humanity
    - *Compassion and empathy for others.*

# Education

- Students should learn skills such as reading, writing, music, and mathematics.

AND

- Students should learn to be virtuous, to achieve moral character. And to live a life of harmony.





# Virtue



- Behavior showing high moral standards

## CONFUCIAN BELIEFS

- The Five Main Confucian Virtues: The main way to become a person of moral quality is through cultivation of five main Confucian virtues:
  - Humaneness - *Chinese, "rén" 仁*  
compassion, benevolence.
  - Righteousness, Justice- *Chinese, "yì" 義*  
justice, morally right.
  - Ritual propriety- *Chinese, "lǐ" 禮*  
the proper customs in social rituals and expectations.
  - Knowledge- *Chinese, "zhì" 智*  
understanding and familiarity with truths, facts, and/or principles.
  - Integrity- *Chinese, "xìn" 信*  
adhering to moral character; honesty.



# Confucian Relationships



- father-child
- ruler-subject
- husband-wife
- elder brother-younger brother
- friend-friend

# Confucius



- “only when character is cultivated are our families regulated; only when families are regulated are states well governed.”

# Confucianism



- Confucius believed that teaching and learning was the way to improve self, family, and society as whole
- Concerned primarily with restoring social stability and order
- What is the basis of a stable, unified, and enduring social order?
  - a system of social and ethical philosophy

# Ying-Yang Symbol

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# Ying-Yang



- Harmony and balance in nature

# Daoism/Taoism

- Founded by Lao Tze (604-531 BCE)
- Main Writing: *Tao-te-Ching* (*The Way of Virtue*)
- Human actions are not important
- Most important part of society is natural order of things
  - The Tao (The Way) - guides all things







# Taoism

- Taoism is more than just a “philosophy” or a “religion”. Taoism should be understood as being: A system of belief, attitudes, and practices set towards the service and living to a person’s own nature.
- The path of understanding Taoism is simply accepting yourself. Live life and discover who you are. Your nature is ever changing and is always the same. Don’t try to resolve the various contradictions in life; instead, learn acceptance of your nature.