



# The Wisdom of the Chinese: Their Philosophy in Sayings and Proverbs (Classic Reprint)

*Brian Brown*

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Excerpt from The Wisdom of the Chinese: Their Philosophy in Sayings and Proverbs

We say, in China: "Confucius! Confucius! How great Confucius! Before Confucius there never was a Confucius. Since Confucius there never has been a Confucius. How great is Confucius!"

In the Western world someone has said: "Confucius invented wisdom," and when you find sayings of his like this one - "When you know a thing, to hold that you know it, and when you do not, to admit the fact, - this is knowledge," you are willing to allow him the title.

Confucius and his greatest follower Mencius were reformers in the true sense of the word. Their whole aim was to construct personal character, and they demanded that the moral and spiritual nature should be substituted for the might of the strong.

No rank was too high, no class too humble, to be taught this universal principle; and with no other personal authority than their own honest conviction, these men went forth to demand of kings and peoples the square acceptance of its claims.

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