

Traditional Chinese Culture

Ru, Shi and Tao means the three teachings including Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism.

Confucianism: The representative is Confucius. It is a school of thought that adores the teachings of Confucius and Mencius during the “Spring and Autumn” period and the “Warring States” period, which advocates the moral concept that is benevolence-centered, including filial piety and fraternity, courtesy, righteousness, loyalty, forgiveness and moderation, etc. It advocates the rule of virtue and policy of benevolence, and pays importance on ethical and moral education as well as family value.

Buddhism: The iconic figure is the founder, Siddhartha Gautama, born in India (now Nepal), who through meditation, which led to enlightenment and left the wheel of incarnations. Its preaches include using the purified heart to witness human nature; proofing the truth of all laws (The truth of everything in the universe, which means their nature, logic, causality, existence based on the heart and transition based on cognition); the dharma-nature and dharma-realm are at unity, one is all, and all is one; all living creatures are Buddha originally. Its dogmas include the ten virtues, the four vast vows, the three practices, the six perfections, the four methods of winning people over and the saving of all lives. Buddhism promotes the act of treating one’s parents with filial piety and respecting one’s mentors, the mindset of compassion and commitment of not killing, and demonstrating the truth of karma and reincarnation from ancient India.

Taoism: The founder is Lao Tse, Chuang Tse is also the representative. It is a school of thought that centers the theory about morality from Lao Tse and Chuang Tse in Ancient China, which attaches most importance on the operating principle of nature in Lao Tse and Chuang Tse’s “Natural Cosmic Perspective”. It emphasizes that in terms of thinking and behavior, people should follow the principles of Taoism including “Giving birth to it yet not possessing it”, “Achieving yet not being arrogant” and “Raising yet not dominating”. In politic, it advocates “Govern by doing nothing that goes against nature”, “Do not reward the competent” and “Make no competition between the people”.

The Chinese philosophy and religion have been a blending of various beliefs. The traditional Chinese culture has always been advocating the integration of the three teachings including Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism. “Standard for being a good pupil and child” is the foundation of Confucianism; “The Ten Virtues” is the foundation of Buddhism; while “The Treatise on Response and Retribution” is the foundation of Taoism. All these three religions follow the teaching of Confucian moral injunctions of filial piety and fraternity, loyalty, faithfulness, honest and humble, which are the characteristics and basis of traditional Chinese culture, the Chinese social culture is rooted here for several thousand years. Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism are people’s spiritual wealth and concluded intellectual quintessence, which also provides the model of religion acknowledgment for the western religion.

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