

Ancient Chinese Philosophers – Background Information

Note about Chinese names: Adding zi at the end of a man's name, such as in Laozi and Hanfeizi, (and Confucius, which was really K'ungfuzi), was adding a title of honor at the end of the man's name. Zi (pronounced dz, with no vowel sound) is a title of honor, such as Master or Teacher. Hanfeizi (Han-fay-dz) means Master Han Fei. Laozi (Lao-dz) means Old Master. Since the Chinese didn't really know his real name, he is simply known as Old Master.

Yin and Yang

(<http://in.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080314075612AAcoc8N>)

How practicing leaders can manage paradox, dilemma and polarity

by George Ambler on Sunday, October 15, 2006

<http://www.thepracticeofleadership.net/tag/paradox/>

This concept of duality has been around for many years. The concept of Yin and Yang is found in ancient Chinese philosophy, which describes "two primal opposing but complementary forces found in all things in the universe." Wikipedia summarizes the concept of Yin and Yang as consisting of the following principles:

- * Yin and Yang are opposites. Everything has its opposite-although this is never absolute, only relative. No one thing is completely Yin or completely Yang. Each contains the seed of its opposite. For example, winter can turn into summer; "what goes up must come down".

- * Yin and Yang are interdependent. One cannot exist without the other. For example, day cannot exist without night. Light cannot exist without darkness.

- * Yin and Yang can be further subdivided into Yin and Yang.

- * Yin and Yang consume and support each other. Yin and Yang are usually held in balance-as one increases, the other decreases. However, imbalances can occur.

- * Yin and Yang can transform into one another. At a particular stage, Yin can transform into Yang and vice versa.

- * Part of Yin is in Yang and part of Yang is in Yin.

The dots in each serve:

- * ... as a reminder that there are always traces of one in the other. For example, there is always light within the dark (e.g., the stars at night); these qualities are never completely one or the other.

- * ... as a reminder that absolute extreme side transforms instantly into the opposite, or that the labels Yin and Yang are conditioned by an observer's point of view. For example, the hardest stone is easiest to break. This can show that absolute discrimination between the two is artificial.

The black represents light, and often is pictured with a dragon, and stands for Yang., the east, although pictured usually on the left. The Yin is white, usually on the right side, and represents dark, emptiness. The concepts are Yin and Yang, but the circular symbol is usually referred to as the Ying Yang. See

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