



PROMOTING THE **CONFUCIAN** TEACHINGS OF '**FAITHFULNESS AND
RECIPROCITY**' CAN DEFINITELY IMPROVE GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING,
RECONCILIATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Speech at

TORONTO CONVENTION 2018 OF PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

By **DR. TONG, YUN-KAI** (湯恩佳博士)

PRESIDENT OF WORLD CONFUCIANISM ASSOCIATION LTD.

PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG CONFUCIAN ACADEMY

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The pluralism of a nation will inevitably lead to pluralism of religions. Toronto is one of the most diversified cities in the world. Local residents come from over 100 ethnic groups. Toronto has Chinatown, Italian Town, Greek Town, Indian Town, South-Korean Town, Jewish markets and others. All ethnic groups with a long history and traditions have their own traditional religions. Therefore, it is especially meaningful to hold the Convention of Parliament of the World's Religions in Toronto to promote global understanding reconciliation and development.

All major religions in the world have played their parts to resolve this issue in their own ways. Our part is to promote the Ten Confucian Virtues (our core principles), namely: Benevolence, Righteousness, Proprieties & Rites, Wisdom, Trustworthiness, Filial Piety, Brotherly Love, Faithfulness, Incorruptibility, and Sense of Shame. These are not just the moral norms of the Chinese people, but are also universal ethics. If everybody adheres to these virtues and the concept of 'the world belongs to its people equally.' Universal Harmony will be attained. Confucianism is based on four concepts. They are:

- I) **"A man of perfect virtue loves extensively."**
- II) **"Develop not just ourselves but others. Achieve not just our goals but help others to achieve theirs."**
- III) **"What we don't want to be done to us, don't impose it on others", and**





IV) “Upholding Diversity and Inclusion without enforcing uniformity.”

In the treatment of relationship with others, Confucius strove for ‘Faithfulness and Reciprocity.’ These are ways to practice Benevolence. They are also the Unifying Principles that we should abide by through out our lifetime. To exalt ourselves to be a loyal and dedicated friend to others is ‘Faithfulness’. “Develop not just ourselves but also others; achieve not just our goals but also help others achieve theirs,” is exactly ‘the principle of Reciprocity.’ We should do charity generously and advocate equal human rights. “What we don’t want to be done to us, don’t impose it on others.” In other words, be friendly, tolerant, considerate, respectful, and do not harm the interests of others and the society.

The concept of “upholding Diversity and Inclusion without enforcing uniformity” is the essence of Confucianism and it is also the best method to resolve the various intricacies of the world to maintain harmony and peace. Within the world of multi-cultures and multi-religions, we come and live together because of different reasons. Finally we mingle with each other harmoniously. This is just like blending different flavors to make a delicious dish, or combining different musical tones to form a beautiful melody. The integration of different ethnic cultures can promote cultural prosperity of the whole world. People with different religions can live together in harmony to form a grand vision of the world’s religions. Various religions can inspire, complement and promote one another for global development.

The main theme of the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Olympics in 2008 was, “Same world, same dream,” which is comparable to the Confucian Article, “Universal Harmony.” Using modern stage technology, over 1000 performers demonstrated and recited quotes from the Analects of Confucius including: “Isn’t it delightful to have friends coming from afar?” and “People from across the Four Oceans are all my brothers.” This Ceremony effectively showed the high status of Confucianism in China.

For over 2000 years (since 100 BC), Confucianism had been the main belief of Chinese people and the main curriculum of the Chinese national education. Starting in September 2019, the Chinese Government will use the Analects of Confucius as the core moral training textbook for their elementary and secondary school nationwide.





Who is Confucius (孔子)?

Confucius has been the exemplary teacher throughout Chinese history and can be throughout the world. Confucius lived in China from 551 to 479 BC. His philosophy deeply influenced the political, economic and social systems of China through the ages. The Analects of Confucius is a collection of his philosophical sayings recorded by his disciples, the Confucianists. Even if you are a Christian, a Buddhist or a member of another religion, or may not have a specific faith tradition, you can still learn from Confucius. His teachings are based on moral codes (The Ten Confucian Virtues) for human relationship emphasizing benevolence developed through 4 steps to achieve 'Universal Harmony' for humanity:

Step 1: To discipline ourselves, strive for education and achievements.

Step 2: To love our families - including our parents, spouses, children, siblings. To Care for our relatives, teachers and friends. Honor our parents & teachers.

Step 3: To participate in strengthening only good government that benefits its citizens.

Step 4: Extend Benevolence to all peoples, living things and Nature to achieve world Peace and 'Universal Harmony'.

Confucius' concept to sustain world peace is to uphold 'Diversity & Inclusion without enforcing Uniformity'. It means you do not have to look like me, speak like me or act like me but we still can be friendly, and accept one another in order to live in this world in peace and harmony.

What is The Confucian Academy (孔教學院)?

It is a non-government non-profit and non-political organization founded by a group of Confucian scholars in Hong Kong in 1930. It strives to manifest Confucian values and promote education to foster moral betterment of society. The Academy organizes diversified academic activities (such as establishing schools) and publishes Confucian books and magazines to promote Confucian culture. It has initiated the building of The Commemoration Hall of Confucius in Hong Kong. It has successfully convinced the Government to declare Confucius Birthday as a public holiday since 2014. Dr. Yun-Kai Tong, SBS, DBA, MBE, is the President of: The Confucian Academy; World Confucianism Association Ltd.; The Hong Kong Confucianism Association; World Confucian Merchants Association Ltd.; and Vice President of International Confucian Ecological Alliance. As a member of the Selection Committee, he has participated in selecting all the CEOs of the Government of Hong Kong Special Administration Region since 1997. He was the Laureate of many awards, namely: "The World Peace Award 2005" by the World Religion Federation in Japan; "The Outstanding Confucian Scholar 2006" by the US Government; "The Confucius Culture Grand Prize 2011" by the Chinese Government; and "The Silver Bauhinia Star 2014" by the Hong Kong Government. He has delivered over 1400 speeches, and has donated over 500 Confucius Brass Statues worldwide to promote Confucianism. He has donated the Confucian Hospital in Tibet. (www.ConfucianAcademy.org.hk)





Universal Harmony (Da Tong 大同)

When the Great Way prevails, the entire world will belong to everyone, equally. Leaders will be elected according to their good virtues and abilities. We will practice mutual trust, peace and brotherhood. We will respect all parents as our own and love all children as our own. Provisions will be secured for the aged, employment for the able-bodied, and guidance and resources to raise the young into adulthood. The welfare of: widows, widowers, orphans, the old and childless, the sick and the disabled, will be sufficiently provided. Each person will have his or her respective duties contributing inside and outside the happy home. Wealth will not be wasted, nor will it be kept by anyone for selfish indulgence. We will use our own strength to work and share the fruit of our labors with others. When justice is in practice: conspiracy will wither away; robbers, thieves, traitors, and other lawless people, will no longer thrive; and the outer doors of our households, need not even be shut. This ideal goal – is known as Universal Harmony (Da Tong). By **Confucianists** (2000 years ago)

The Ten Confucian Virtues (十德)

BENEVOLENCE	仁	Extending Love -- to all peoples, living things and Nature
RIGHTEOUSNESS	義	Courage to do what is right without expecting rewards
PROPRIETIES & RITES	禮	Courtesy, decorum and politeness
WISDOM	智	Ability to differentiate right from wrong
TRUSTWORTHINESS	信	Honesty and sincerity
FILIAL PIETY	孝	Love and care for parents
BROTHERLY LOVE	悌	Brothers, sisters & cousins – love, help and respect one another
FAITHFULNESS	忠	Loyalty, dedication and fidelity
INCORRUPTIBILITY	廉	Integrity, honor and probity
SENSE OF SHAME	恥	Conscience and awareness of wrong actions

(These core principles of Confucianism are not only the moral norms of the Chinese people but can be universal ethics to achieve Universal Harmony)

(www.ConfucianAcademy.org.hk)

