ABSTRACT

Han Yu is usually complimented for his leadership in the Classical Language Movement in the T'ang Dynasty. His achievement as a philosopher, however, has often been neglected. It is therefore the aim of this Academic Exercise to reassess Han Yu's contribution to Chinese Philosophy.

Firstly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my parents who were extremely supportive and understanding throughout my years of education. Their care was not flawless; although he claimed to be a successor of Confucius and Mencius, it is discovered that some of his theories were not in coherence with the Pre-Ching Confucianism.

In spite of some shortcomings in his thinking, Han Yu was a key-figure in the transition from the Confucianism of medieval China to Neo-Confucianism. Han Yu could thus be considered a forerunner of the Neo-Confucianism that developed in the eleventh century.