Abstract

Dong Zhong Shu was one of the important confucian scholars of the Han Dynasty. Although he was also known as the Han's Confucius (汉代孔子), it was discovered that some of his theories were not in consistence or coherence with Pre-Chin Confucianism. Moreover, his theories were retrogressive in relation to the Pre-Chin Confucianism. It is the intention of this study to explore and reveal how Dong Zhong Shu misunderstood and deviated from the real Confucianism.

The Central focus of this study is an analysis and criticism of the roots and substance of Dong Zhong Shu's confucianism. The study examines this from four different perspectives:

1. The 'Tian-Dao' Concept (天道观);
2. The Political Thought;
3. The Human Nature and
4. The Economic Thought.

In order that an accurate picture of the differences between Dong Zhong Shu and the Pre-Chin Confucianism might be presented, an analysis of their theoretical differences is included in every chapter.