

The theoretical study of Shao-Yong's Confucianism

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Abstract

Shao-Yong is a neo-Confucianist at Sung dynasty, his philosophy is not easy to be understood and agreed with by the other scholars in the history. This proposal is going to make clear of his philosophy.

The complete study of the neo-Confucianism needs the help of methodology. The author proposes that the study of any of the Chinese philosophy must have four basic philosophical questions to deal with. They are the questions of cosmology、ontology、practice、and the perfect personality.

Shao-Yong was one of the five top images of the North-Sung dynasty's neo-Confucians. Shao-Yong's philosophy comes from I-Ging (易經), and his concern is the philosophy of history. He uses the knowledge of I-Ging to tell the truth of the Universe and describes an approach of the developmental process of the Universe. In his system, he could not only tell all the things in the world by classifying them into a fixed I-Ging structure but also tell about the whole developmental process of the history. He, by this way, finally possesses all the knowledge in the world and says people who have this knowledge will become a Sage with wisdom.

The author also proposes a statement about the definition of the school of the Confucianism in this article. The Confucianism is not only a philosophy of ontology and doing the abstract speculating affairs. The purpose of its theoretical creation is to build a better society. In doing this, Confucians needs to own the useful knowledge about the society and the nature. This is just the value of the philosophy of Shao-Yong.

In this paper, the author discuss Shao-Yong's philosophy in the topic of "the philosophy of history ; I-Ging philosophy ; theory of the Sage ; and theory of practice".

Keywords : Shao-Yong, Ging, co-Confucianism, cosmology, philosophy of history, age

