

Mencius

The arrival of war brought new stresses to all the many Lǔ viewpoints, including the proprietors of the Analects. When the Analects finally faltered, it was Mencius who would take up the cause, and bring it into the big time.

11 **Mencius in Lǔ** (LY 12-13). in 0325, Mencius brought the new statecraft theory to Lǔ. Snippets of the Gwǔndǔ were quoted and sometimes discussed in the Analects. But the difference between himself and the Analects leadership over meditation (of which Mencius was a lifelong devotee, whereas the Dàuists and the Analects school were at this time bitterly opposed) made the situation uncomfortable, and Mencius departed in 0320.

(12) **Mencius in Lyáng**. Mencius was known as having his own version of the then popular idea that a ruler must attract the good feelings of his people. The King of Lyáng had tried the theory, but found that it was not working. He invited Mencius to explain his new version of the theory. How that might have come out, we will never know, since the King died the next year.

(13) **Mencius in Chí**. Mencius was already known in Chí, and to Chí he now returned, not as a visitor but as a minister. His advice about annexing occupied Yēn resulted in disaster. Mencius was dismissed, and died in 0302. He and his school never recovered their once respected position.

This left the Confucians without a spokesman of stature. Enter Sywǎndǔ, by his own account the greatest Confucian of his day. He began as an expert in the performance of the Shī poems, and went on to seek office in the north, finally moving to the rising (if also nonSinitic!) southern state of Chǔ.