

字子游，春秋末年吴国人。孔子晚年弟子，长于文学，对孔子倡导的仁礼精神领悟独到。二十多岁出任武城的邑宰，将孔子关于「君子学道则爱人，小人学道则易使」的教诲运用于政治实践，极力推行礼乐教化。被列为孔门四科十哲之文学科之首。孔子去世后，子游及其后学独成一派，特别是关于「大同」、「小康」理想社会的描述对中华文化影响深远。东汉明帝永和十五年配祀孔子，唐玄宗开元二十七年尊为「吴侯」，宋真宗大中祥符二年追封为「丹阳公」，后又改封为「吴公」。

## 9 言偃 (小孔子三十五岁)



## 9. YAN YAN

### (35 YEARS YOUNGER THAN CONFUCIUS)

Yan Yan, styled Ziyou, was a native of the State of Wu in the late Spring and Autumn period, and a disciple taken by Confucius in his late years. Yan Yan, who was distinguished for his literary acquirements, had an unusual understanding of the virtues of benevolence and propriety advocated by Confucius. At the age of 20, he served as commandant of Wucheng, and put the teaching of Confucius — “When a gentleman is well instructed, he really loves others; and when a mean man is well instructed, he is easily ruled.” — into political practice, and did his best to transform the people by propriety and music. Yan Yan was one of Confucius’ ten chief disciples in the four classes (ranked first in literary accomplishments). After Confucius passed away, Yan Yan set up his own school with the remaining students, and his descriptions of the “common world” and “society of well-being”, exerted a profound influence on Chinese culture. In the 15th year of the Yonghe reign period of Emperor Mingdi of the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220), Yan Yan was honored together with Confucius; in the 27th year of the Kaiyuan reign period of Emperor Xuanzong of the Tang Dynasty, he was posthumously given the title of Duke Wu; in the second year of the Dazhong Xiangfu reign period of Emperor Zhenzong of the Song Dynasty, Lord Danyang; and later, Lord Wu.