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公冶长

字子长，春秋末年齐国人，一说鲁国人。出身寒微，聪颖好学，为人豁达。相传他通鸟语，并因此被误投入狱。孔子却并未因此嫌弃他，而是为他开罪，认为他「为人能忍耻」，并将女儿许配给他。可见孔子对他才学人品的认可。唐玄宗开元二十七年封为「莒伯」，宋真宗大中祥符二年升为「高密侯」，明世宗嘉靖九年改封为「先贤公冶子」。



20. GONGYE CHANG

Gongye Chang, styled Zichang, was a native either of the State of Qi or of that of Lu in the late Spring and Autumn period. Born into a poor family, Gongye Chang was clever, eager to learn and optimistic. Legend has it that he was put into prison because he knew the language of birds. However, Confucius absolved him from guilt, believing that "Gongye Chang is a man who can tolerate shame". Later, Confucius married his daughter to him, proving that Confucius was convinced of his talent, learning and personality. In the 27th year of the Kaiyuan reign period of Emperor Xuanzong of the Tang Dynasty, he was given the title of Count Ju; in the second year of the Dazhong Xiangfu reign period of Emperor Zhenzong of the Song Dynasty, Duke Gaomi; and in the ninth year of the Jiajing reign period (1522-1566) of the Ming Dynasty, Ancient Sage Gongye Zi.