

# A CHINESE PHILOSOPHER IN OUR MIDST

BY  
WILCOX ARNOLD

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The Pick of the Bookshelf  
"THE GREAT TO BE"

By WILCOX ARNOLD

Price 1/6

EXTRACTS from some letters received :—

(1) Major Jones, Editor of Economic Supplement, *Morning Post*—" . . . your charming little work."

(2) "The philosophy expounded by that great intellectual character, Old Chang, is wonderful, and I am sure would teach us all a useful lesson. The accompanying little stories are most charming, and the episodes depicted are delightful in the extreme."

(3) ". . . I am very much taken by the Russian proverbs you give, and with the Chinese stories and folklore with which your book is enriched. . . ."

(4) ". . . your little book which I have read and found most interesting. It is extremely well written, and the object is arrived at by means of a well-thought-out climax. . . ."

(5) "I was entranced with your little story 'The Great to be.' The manner in which you have depicted the machinations and optopial proclivities of the dragon is most enthralling. . . ."

(6) "It is wonderful, Doctor!!"  
"Spread the Gospel, Rather!!"

(7) "I have read your two little books with great pleasure. Any scheme for freeing our young men from the degrading tyranny of dependence upon the dole, and give them back their self-respect and manhood must always have my warm support."

(8) ". . . Your two little books with their vivid descriptions of Chinese life. I shall value them greatly and add them to our library. China is one of the puzzles of the world."

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EXTRACTS from *Times* Literary Supplement—

LITERARY

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"THE GREAT TO BE." By Wilcox Arnold. 1/6

Visions which appear to Andrew Blair, through people whom he knows, the great Power behind the infinite wisdom of the early philosophers makes itself known in his subconscious mind.

- (1) The great colonising trek North of the Chinese.
- (2) Prettv Hsi Liu (Slender Willow).
- (3) The spirit screen and its symbolism.
- (4) Chang the philosopher.

All leading up to the revelation of things as the old philosopher sees them.

Of the new earth, where age-old ideals have taken concrete shape.

. . . to outline the purpose of the Great Will seen by the mystics of ancient China to be behind all effort, human and divine.

The author has put Chinese characters for Shang Ti, or Lord of Heaven, On the title page, and his conception of the Great Will which is to re-create a weary, worn out world, accords as closely as many a learned dissertation with the Chinese idea of the Supreme Lord.

## UNITED INDIA AND INDIAN STATES (Delhi)

This booklet of 50 pages comes from one who has carefully acquainted himself with the wisdom of the Chinese philosophers of old and their teaching which is still directly or indirectly guiding and governing the life and activities of the people of a country inhabited by more than a fifth of the whole human race.

Andrew Blair.—We are introduced to him at the end of 18 years' sojourn in Eastern Land, drifted to N.W. Mongolia, which was the culminating point of a geological survey of the rich mineral lands and ancient mine workings.

Some of the most important events in his contact with this vast Empire are in the form of episodes recorded in the seven succeeding chapters:—

He has wonderful vision of "The Great to Be." The spirit screen which was once familiar to him lifts him through ethereal regions to the vast domain of a magnificent palace nestling under stupendous clouds resembling lofty mountains.

The dragon on the screen, he sees again in the magnificent celestial hall, and Chang the philosopher meets him there and reveals to him the mysteries of "The Great to Be," solving the great problems which engage the attention of contending philosophers on earth. He shows him the changes that have gone on, towards continued progress on earth, during the past epochs—the first of 1,000 years, the second 5,000 years, next two of 10,000 years, and of 100,000 years. The history of these epochs shows that "the whole world is one large family, and when peace, trustfulness, love and diligence prevail, there is no room for dissension"; and the final goal is the perfection of the terrestrial sphere according to the Divine Will, for its transformation into a New Earth. The book though small is arresting, and contains ample food for thought.

J. S. M.

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*The Bayswater, Paddington, Kensington, Hammersmith  
and West and North-West London Chronicle.*

### "THE GREAT TO BE"

The wonderful revelation that life goes on in perpetuity, completing the worlds, or planets, of the solar system, and those that are beyond, of which we present-day mortals know nothing. Most interesting folklore and philosophy make this charming little work stand out as one of the shining lights in new publications.

It has been widely reviewed by experts, so that very little is left for us to say.

It however contains many object lessons, which should be known by everyone; and the episodes contained in the several chapters will grip the readers, giving them a most enjoyable account of the various transitions through which this old weary world is to pass.

"The Great to Be," by Wilcox Arnold, 1s. 6d.

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A CHINESE PHILOSOPHER  
IN OUR MIDST

A 9599

CHINESE PHILOSOPHER  
IN OUR MIDST

A  
*PSYCHO-DIALOGUE*  
IN TWO SCENES

*By*  
WILCOX ARNOLD

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## PREFACE

THE Author begs to state that the only apology he feels called upon to offer for this humble work of his, is that it seems to be greatly overdue. At the same time the Author begs here to assure any of the readers who may not see eye-to-eye with him in controversial matters that he has not had the very slightest intention of hurting anyone's feelings.

"*Opinions sont libre*"—everyone to his own opinion is, and always will be, I hope, the maxim.

### INTRODUCTION, PRELUDE AND PROLOGUE

ANDREW: The intention originally was to write a brief essay on the Honourable Homeland of the Principal character of this dialogue, the Venerable Chinese Sage, Old Chang, the Philosopher; but since writing these lines a magazine has come into my possession, which contains all I had to say on the subject—has taken the words out of my mouth, so to speak.

THE AXIOM BEING: Truth propounded by two or more, gains credulity and acceptance accordingly, that remaining so, I propose to give here the very article verbatim. It is by the pen of Edward Carpenter, in his work, *Towards Democracy*. Let the Audience, i.e., the readers, judge, and be convinced:—*Towards Democracy*.

### CHINA

Far in the interior of China.

Along low-lying plains and great river-valleys, and by

lake-sides, and far away into hilly and even mountainous regions.

Behold ! an immense population, rooted in the land, rooted in the clan and the family.

The most productive and stable on the whole earth.

A garden one might say—a land of rich and *recherché* crops, of rice, and tea and silk and sugar and cotton and oranges. Do you see it?—stretching away endlessly over river-lines and lakes, and the gentle undulations of the lowlands, and up the escarpments of the higher hills ;

The innumerable patchwork of cultivation—the poignant verdure of the young rice ; the sombre green of the orange grooves ; the lines of tea-shrubs, well hoed, and showing the bare earth beneath ; the pollard mulberries ; the plots of cotton and maize, and wheat and yarn and clover ;

The little brown and green-tiled cottages, with spreading recurved eaves ; the clumps of feathery bamboo, or of sugar-canes ;

The endless silver threads of irrigation canals and ditches, skirting the hills for scores and hundreds of miles, tier above tier, and serpentine down to the lower slopes and plains.

The accumulated result, *these*, of centuries of ingenious industry, and of innumerable public and private benefactions, continued from age to age.

The grand canal of the Delta-plain extending, a thronged water-way, for six hundred miles, with sails of junks and bank-side villages innumerable ;

The chain-pumps worked by buffaloes or men, for throwing the water up slopes and hill-sides, from tier to tier, from channel to channel ;

The endless rills and cascades flowing down again, into pockets and hollows of verdure, and on fields of steep and plain ;

The bits of rock and wild wood left here and there, with the angles of Buddhist temples projecting from among the trees ;

The azalea and rhododendron bushes, and the wild deer and the pheasants unharmed ;

The sounds of music and the gong—the Sin-fa sung at eventide—and the air of contentment and peace pervading ;

A garden you might call the land, for its wealth of crops and flowers ;

A town almost for population.

A population denser, on a large scale, than anywhere else on earth—

Five- or six-acre holdings, elbowing each other, with lesser and larger, continuously over immense tracts, and running to plentiful market centres ;

A country of few roads, but of innumerable foot-paths and waterways.

Here, rooted in the land, rooted in the family,

Each family clinging to its own portion of ancestral earth, each off-shoot of the family desiring nothing so much as to secure its own patrimonial field,

Each member of the family answerable primarily to the family-assembly for his misdeeds or defalcations ;

All bound together in the common worship of ancestors, and in reverence for the past and its sanctioned beliefs and accumulated prejudices and superstitions ;

With many ancient, wise, simple customs, and ordinances coming down from remote centuries and the time of Confucius,

The vast population abides—the most stable and the most productive in the world.

And Government touches it but lightly—can touch it but lightly.

With its few officials its scanty taxation (about half a crown per head) and with the extensive administration

of justice and affairs by the clan and the family little scope is left for Government.

The great equalised mass-population pursues its even and accustomed way, nor pays attention to edicts and foreign treaties, unless these commend themselves independently ;

Pays readier respect in such matters to the edicts and utterances of its literary men, and the deliberations of the Academy.

And religious theorizing touches it but lightly—can touch it but lightly.

Established on the bedrock of actual life, and on the living unity and community of present, past, and future generations,

Each man stands bound already, and by the most powerful ties, to the social body—nor needs the dreams and promises of Heaven to reassure him.

All are bound to the Earth.

Rendering back to it as a sacred duty every atom that the Earth supplies to them (not insensately sending it in sewers to the sea).

By the way of abject common sense they have sought the gates of Paradise—and, too, found on human soil their City Celestial !

And this is an outline of the nation which the Western nations would fain remodel on their own lines—

The pyramids standing on their own apexes wanting to overturn the pyramid which rests four-square on its base !

But China remembers too well the time when it, too, endured the absurdities of monopolized Land and Capital, of private property in water and other necessaries of glaring wealth and poverty, and the practical enslavement of one man by another ;

It remembers even yet the discomfort of standing on its own apex,

And oddly enough has no intention of returning to those times.

“Behold and harken! We ring up the Curtain.”