Confucian Philosophy in Software Design

The Analects

Written during the Spring and Autumn Period through the Warring States Period (ca. 479 BCE - 221 BCE), the Analects is the representative work of Confucianism

"The superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions."

"Don't get suckered in by the comments ... they can be terribly misleading." - Dave Storer

"To go beyond is as wrong as to fall short."

"Using *divergent thinking* helps you to understand where you want to go today, as well as where you don't want to go today. A developer needs to know both." (informit.com)

"When you have faults, do not fear to abandon them."

"The only good bug is a dead bug!" - Starship Troopers

"If a man takes no thought about what is distant, he will find sorrow near at hand."

"Rule of Extensibility: Design for the future, because it will be here sooner than you think." - The Art of Unix Programing, Eric S. Raymond

"Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous."

"I feel like I'm killing away my innovative energy by stuffing my brain with crap" - vilceanu.net

"It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop."

"Premature optimization is the root of all evil." - Donald Knuth

"Of course it does not work, but look how fast it is!"

"The scholar who cherishes the love of comfort is not fit to be deemed a scholar."

"Real programmers can write assembly code in any language." - Larry Wall

"Things that are done, it is needless to speak about. Things that are past, it is needless to blame."

'That's not true! That feature was fixed in CVS four weeks ago!' -- slashdot.org

The Doctrine of the Mean

Written ca. 500 B.C.E

"There is no body but eats and drinks. But they are few who can distinguish flavors."

"And you're right: we were not out to win over the Lisp programmers; we were after the C++ programmers. We managed to drag a lot of them about halfway to Lisp. Aren't you happy?" - Guy Steele

"Great as heaven and earth are, men still find some things in them with which to be dissatisfied."

"Software is living - it's never finished and, like humans, it's never perfect." - stone.com philosophy

"*In all things success depends on previous preparation.*"

"Integrated hardware and software design technology is the key ingredient required to exploit the emerging nanotechnology in a range of applications." -- nanotechwire.com

"The superior man governs men, according to their nature"

"Real Programmers don't like the team programming concept. Unless, of course they are the chief programmer."