

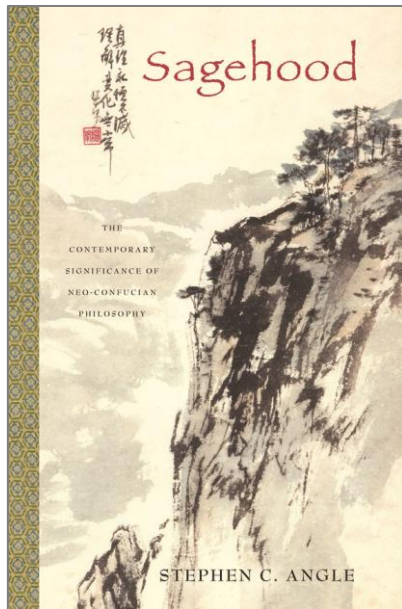
New in Paperback

Save
20%

Sagehood

The Contemporary Significance of Neo-Confucian Philosophy

Stephen C. Angle



"[Angle's] work is a significant contribution to the dialogue, and one that will be of interest not only to specialists in Chinese thought but also to 'mainstream' philosophers interested in the virtues, ethical cultivation, and flourishing."

—Bryan W. Van Norden, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*

Neo-Confucianism is the sophisticated revival of Confucian theorizing, responding to challenges from Buddhism and Daoism, which began around 1000 C.E. and came to dominate the Chinese intellectual scene for centuries thereafter. What would happen if we took Neo-Confucianism and its central ideal of sagehood seriously as contemporary philosophy? Sagehood represents supreme human virtue: a flawless, empathetic responsiveness to every situation in which one finds itself. How could this been possible?

How might one work toward such a state? According to Neo-Confucians, we should all strive to become sages, whether or not we ultimately achieve it. Taking neo-Confucianism seriously means to explore the ways that its theories of psychology, ethics, education, and politics engage with the views of contemporary philosophers. Angle's book is therefore both an exposition of Neo-Confucian philosophy and a sustained dialog with many leading Western thinkers – and especially with those philosophers leading the current renewal of interest in virtue ethics. The book's significance is two-fold: it argues for a new stage in the development of contemporary Confucian philosophy, and it demonstrates the value to Western philosophers of engaging with the Neo-Confucian tradition.

978-0-19-992223-9 | Paperback | 312 pp. | ~~\$29.95~~ **\$23.95**

April 2012

Stephen C. Angle is Professor of Philosophy and Eastern Studies at Wesleyan University.

Visit www.oup.com/us and enter promo code **30618** to save 20%