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The Mandarin Tomb at Lien Ch'i Mu.

Every one who has a sympathetic attitude toward old Chinese culture and learning ought by all means to visit this place of interest.

Chü Yuen Kung is regarded as the founder of the Sung School of Confucian philosophy. At the foot of the Li Shu Ling (Chestnut Tree) where the grave is situated, stands the great Dai Lou, much weather-beaten. The inscription stated that this is the grave of the Venerable Sage from Lien C'hi. A broad stone staircase leads up to the grave at the top of the hill. Five tablets stand in a row in front of the grave, and three more in a semi-circle behind. The middle one of the five tablets is dedicated to the mother of Chu Fu Tzu. The inscription on the tablet to the right states that at this place the Sage himself has been buried. The third to the right bears the portrait of the sage. The tablet to the left is dedicated to the two wives of Chü, and to the extreme left is a picture of a boy and girl standing on a bridge which spans a brook. These figures are known in Chinese mythology as the guardian spirits whose duty it is to guide the souls of the departed into the next world.

The tablet in the center of the background gives a recital of the life of the sage, and was erected by Admiral Pen Wu Lin in 1856. The following extract will suffice: "After the death of Confucius, a new moralist has appeared, Mencius, who is going to lead the people out of the swamp of materialism into the paths of rectitude." The tablet on the right states that this is the grave of the Nank'ang Prefect and that it was erected in the first year of Chia Ching, 1522 A.D., by Tsa Yao Ch'ing, Prefect of Nank'angfu. The tablet on the left alone is worth a visit to the grave. The inscription, covered with mystical symbols, is the Tai Chi T'u (太極圖) of the Pa Kwa (八卦) as it stood in relation to the life of the sage. The symbols are very difficult to fathom, as are also the descriptions of the elements. They are the foundations of the metaphysical and geomantical systems of Chinese philosophy, and foreign sinologues have spent much time in trying to elucidate them.

At the foot of the hill, on both sides of the road, there are a few tablets. The partly obliterated inscription to the left belongs to the year 1573 A.D., and was erected by the Prefect of Kiukiang; and the one to the right, in 1885 by Admiral Pen Wu Ling, who appears to have taken much interest in the place and renovated it.

[P.384/1]