

字子有，冉耕之弟，春秋末年鲁国人。青年时曾做过季氏家臣，后辞官随孔子周游列国。长于政事，永无善战，善于理财。被列为孔门四科十哲之一（政事科）。在刑法和礼制方面，他已经萌生出不同于儒家传统的思想，流露出重法的思想，这种改革精神对后世影响很大。唐玄宗开元八年追封为「徐侯」，宋真宗大中祥符二年追封为「彭城公」，宋度宗咸淳三年又改封为「徐公」。

7 冉求 (小孔子二十九岁)



7. RAN QIU

(29 YEARS YOUNGER THAN CONFUCIUS)

Ran Qiu, styled Ziyou, was another younger brother of Ran Geng, and a native of the State of Lu in the late Spring and Autumn period. In his youth, he served as an official of the Ji Clan, later resigning to follow Confucius traveling from state to state. Ran Qiu was good at handling political and financial affairs, and skilled in many arts. He was listed one of Confucius' ten chief disciples in the four classes (distinguished for administrative ability). He had ideas different from the Confucianist tradition concerning criminal law and the system of rites, and expressed his emphasis on law. His reforming spirit exerted a great influence on later generations. In the eighth year of the Kaiyuan reign period of Emperor Zuanzong of the Tang Dynasty he was posthumously given the title of Duke Xu; in the third year of the Dazhong Xiangfu reign period of Emperor Zhenzong of the Song Dynasty, Lord Pengcheng; and in the third year of the Xianchun reign period of Emperor Duzong of the Song Dynasty, Lord Xu.