

## The Zhuangzi as a Commentary on Kongzi

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The role of Kongzi 孔子, in the Zhuangzi, has been a compelling story. Can we read the stories about Kongzi as a type of commentary on his teachings and the early development of Confucian philosophy, in general. First, I will look at the way Zhuangzi has put his own teachings into the mouth of Kongzi. Then I will turn to the more problematic references to Kongzi as being punished in Chapter 5 and his being a “condemned person” in chapter 6 to illustrate how these stories are taken to be a form of commentary or criticism of Kongzi’s project. The role of Kongzi in the Zhuangzi can be read as a criticism like commentary.