

SUNNIE D. KIDD, THE GREAT AMERICAN THINKER,  
PHILOSOPHER AND EDUCATOR

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On March 27, 2002, the great thinker, philosopher and educator Sunnie D. Kidd of the University of San Francisco ceased to think forever. For those people who know Sunnie during her life, Sunnie is a shining example as a perfect human being, a beloved teacher and a kind friend. For those people who only come to know Sunnie through her posthumously published works in the Seattle Forum in world wide web, Sunnie is a great person to enlighten millions of mind in the whole human society and should be remembered not only for the day she passed away, but also for the day she was born, October 29, 1942.

In order to remember this great individual for her great contribution to the common civilizations of human being, a special program was established in Seattle Forum on the first anniversary of her passing away. Most of Sunnie Kidd's works have been published through her forum with the generous support of her sponsors and tireless work of staff, officers and advisors of Superdirector.com. The rest of her work will also be published in due time.

Favorable comments and praises and eulogies about Sunnie and her work flooded into the editor's e-mail box ever since the establishment of her forum in Seattle Forum on superdirector.com. The most frequent words used by the readers world wide to described Sunnie and her works are "elegant," "simple and beautiful," "poetic," "American Confucius," "Lead Expert in Chinese philosophy and Tao" etc. Many readers expressed gratefulness to the Editorial Board for publishing Sunnie's work and for introducing such a great educator and scholar to the academia and public.

The publishing of Sunnie's work in Superdirector.Com had aroused great response from educational and academic communities around the world. Some teachers in the Bay area of San Francisco required their students in the colleges to read Sunnie. Other teachers in China required their students in master degree program to read and translate Sunnie's work into Chinese. Some readers contacted Superdirector administrator and expressed great interests in reading more works published in Seattle Forum, because they wanted to know more about Sunnie, the person and her works. It is a pity that Sunnie Kidd did not know during her lifetime that her works would have such a great readership.

“It is very important to remember the birthday of Sunnie Kidd, the great philosopher and educator of the modern world,” said Peterson B. Zhou, the Executive Editor of Seattle Forum. Mr. Zhou said: “Sunnie passed away more than a year ago, I am still painful to think about the loss of her in my life as a great friend and great private tutor. It is not only a great loss to the family, friends, students and colleagues of Sunnie, but also a great loss to Seattle Forum on Superdirector.com, a loss to the whole academia and human society as well.” Mr. Zhou continued: “I have never seen Sunnie Kidd in person during her life, but I had enjoyed working with her since she joined our advisory board before she passed away and became a major contributor to Seattle Forum. She is just the right person who deserves our respect, admiration and love as a friend, colleague and teacher as well as our supporter. We would love to promote her, not only for her great personality, but also for the tremendous academic value of her works. Both the Advisory Board and Editorial Board agree that Sunnie’s works belong to the whole society and should be shared by people of all cultures and nations. We believe that the impact of publishing Sunnie’s works will be reached far and wide.”

“If I could be remembered for anything it would be *Inbetweenness*.” Sunnie Kidd used to say to her husband James Kidd. It is quite true that Sunnie’s unique major contribution to the academia lies in her framework in “*Inbetweenness*” and her themes. At Sunnie’s memorial at University of San Francisco, Dr. Kidd put it this way, “When I think of Sunnie four themes stand out: Intelligence; Sense of Humor; Quick Read of Character and Stubbornness, all within a certain Style of Pleasantness.” Peterson Zhou said, the term “*Inbetweenness*” coined by Sunnie in 1970 is quite similar to the term of “Tao” in Lao Tzu in ancient Chinese philosophy.

Dr. George C.H. Sun, the Acting Chairman of the Advisory Board Directors to Supredirector.Com and long time friend of Sunnie Kidd said: “Sunnie is too genuinely great to be merely unassuming she is even beyond that! She is a prolific writer though not an academician in the technical sense, yet in pursuit of truth and wisdom she is no less dedicated and productive than any professional.” Professor Sun co-authors several articles with Sunnie and is one of the highest authorities to evaluate Sunnie’s work base on his original research and teaching in Taiwan and America. Dr. Sun added: “Sunnie stands above and aloof as naturally immune from the harness of glamour, glory, power, success or even achievement in the ordinary worldly sense.”

Dr. James W. Kidd, husband and student of Sunnie Kidd said: “Three months before my teacher Sunnie D. Kidd passed away she told me, ‘*You have come into your own as a teacher.*’ I had already been teaching for more than twenty-five years! But to have my teacher say that to me was the highest honor I could and will ever achieve. That is the power of a teacher to recognize the capabilities of another person and help them on their path.”

Great teachers read character. The beauty of having a great teacher is to know it at that time. To be aware of what is happening while it is happening.” Dr. James Kidd is also one of the great philosophers in modern western world and an internationally acclaimed writer, poet and educator.

Pete Spitters, a teacher from Cupertino in California said: “I read Sunnie’s essay published in Superdirector entitled *Inbetweenness: The Indivisible Whole* again, I had some further thoughts. I called it ‘beautiful, simple, sound, and concrete.’”

Professor Le Aiguo, a senior fellow in Chinese philosophy in Seattle Forum and distinguished Professor in China’s top university said: “We scholars in China wish to exchange with the Western scholars on Chinese philosophy and civilization because they all belong to the common civilizations of whole human beings. Sunnie Kidd’s work is of invaluable to the treasures of Chinese culture and civilization. As a scholar in Taoism and Confucius myself, I am surprised to discover the widths and depths of Sunnie’s original research in Lao Tzu and Confucius. I know the tremendous value of Sunnie’s work and I would recommend my master degree students to read Sunnie again and again in the Internet.”

A friend of Sunnie Kidd in the State of Washington commented that: I learn from the leading Chinese Newspaper World Journal that U.S. President Bush has sent greeting in memory of the birth of Confucius, the great sage of all times in Chinese history as well as world history. I believe that Sunnie Kidd also deserves this honor and deserves national official recognition based on her growing influence in the educational and academic community. I believe this day will come sooner or later when all her works publish. Peterson B. Zhou called on all individuals who care about other people and concern about our living environment to study Sunnie’s work because she is indeed a true great thinker as well as an educator, a great individual the world will remember for long long time.