

# Wang Ch'ung Encyclopedia Article

## Wang Ch'ung

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# Wang Ch'ung

27-c. 100

Chinese philosopher who commented on a number of scientific subjects. In his *Lun-heng*, Wang Ch'ung, a former official who had left office in order to pursue a career as a philosopher, criticized superstitious thinking. Departing from orthodoxy, he attacked not only Taoism, but Confucianism—by then a well-established doctrine—from a position that oriented toward rationalism and naturalism. He also described the human psyche as a purely mechanical, rather than a spiritual, construct.