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Cultures and Traditions I
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Discussion Notes for Nov. 14, 2005

Passages

6.A.11
1.B.5
4.A.9
5.B.8
3.A.4

Ideas

Gentlemen
Education
Humanity
Ruling
Relationships (between people)
Taking action (yu-wei)
Righteousness
4 Beginnings

6.A.11

- following right path
 - ...when lost hearts, do not go look for them
 - way of learning is finding lost heart
- undervalue things that are precious, have so little of
 - don't appreciate what isn't a material possession
- 2.A.6
- 6.A.17
 - desire to be honored (all men)
 - everybody has it in themselves what is honourable
- honor original state of being
 - human nature is good
 - corrupted by evil forces, turns to dishonor and disgrace
 - originally have humanity, righteousness, ritual, decorum, and wisdom within us

7.A.29

- start or develop
 - digging well, but if don't hit water, just abandoned well

7.B.13

7.B.14

-people are the most important role of government

6.A.10

-give up life and produce righteousness

-liberty and human rights

-4.A.9

-ruling empire

-win over people by winning over hearts

-people are most important

-if someone fears you, they won't kill you

-if someone loves you, will lay down their lives for you

Is through the people best way to rule?

-fastest way to get power?

-easier to just implement own policies

-because human nature is so complicated, not easier to please everyone this way

-in long run, through people is best

-otherwise quality of life is lower and poverty higher

-if ruler is just interested in getting a title, no stability is guaranteed

-to become king does not depend on large kingdom

Relationships

3.A.4

-education is key

-hired minister to teach human relationships

-pay tribute to rituals and past

-not always looking back

-Veteran's Day not recognized much at Wabash

-humanity isn't changing any time soon

Relationship between old and young and question of respect between them

-longer been around, more experiences

-more experience, better understanding

5.B.8

-only better by knowing other people who are better

-best gentlemen in different communities know each other

-past shapes identity

-greater understanding

-be obedient to elders or just listen to their advice and make own decisions?

-try not to make same mistakes

-set in ways too much, close minded at older age

-younger people bring new ideas to table

Proper order between old and young

-young at least polite enough to listen

Lack of respect between ages in U.S.

- youth to adults and vice versa
- little respect
- not like should be

Human nature

- all men have heart which can't bear to see suffering of others
- definitely some bad people by nature
- shaped by experience
- all good by nature
- all bad by nature
- God is able to encompass everything
- why allow evil
- free will from God, hopefully strong enough to avoid evil

6.A.6

- human nature
- environment shapes everything
- born naturally good
- environment corrupts

How much are born with?
Born naturally straight?

- born with similar qualities, not same amount of those qualities
- need further development to know whether right or wrong

Mencius falls right in middle

- born good
- have to develop it to become good permanently
- secure livelihood, secure heart

6.A.6

- if man does evil, not fault of natural endowment
- bad neighborhood, doesn't mean bad kid
- what you make of it

Lots of sides
Not just one middle

Child falling in well

-2.A.6