

Discussion notes for *Fifteen Strings of Cash*
18 November, 2005

Scenes:

- 1-robbery and murder
- 2-suspects arrested
- 3-trial and sentence
- 4-execution stopped by prefect
- 5-prefect's audience with governor
- 6-evidence and suspicion of Lou the Rat
- 7-Rat trapped by fortune teller
- 8-final proceedings

Familiar story with unfamiliar cultural details

- joke by father about selling daughter
- harshness of government
- learning real murderer at beginning of play
- stressing importance of time to the culture

The play's legal system

- efficiency is very important
- order is also stressed, following the law unquestioningly
- suspects are guilty until proven innocent

Benefits

- no double standard
- quick, efficient, saves time and money
- public is involved with investigation

Downsides

- suspects are guilty until proven innocent
- one man's decision decides life or death, system of checks seems insufficient

Our legal system VS play's legal system

Number of innocents wrongly accused:

- higher in play because of the lack of evidence
- higher in play because of the lack of police, or officials "on the street"

Athenian system VS play system

Benefits of Athenian system

- the presence of a jury
- speeches by prosecution and defendant
- suspects are innocent until proven guilty

Benefits of play system

- one man has been trained to make the decision, it is his job.
- the Athenian jury may lack experience

K'uahg Chung on his own system

- ignorance of anything else?
- frustration with conflict between career and moral compass

Opinion of Kuo Yu-Chih

- a loss of respect after trial
- still stand behind magistrate and system