Jonathan Quang 12/2/14

Global - Mr.Badgley

Homework #30 Legalism and Taoism

1. The Way in Taoism is truth that cannot be comprehended. The Way manifests itself in everything, created everything, and nourishes everything, all without taking any credit. The Way is also a goal that seems to be unreachable, but experience and gaining wisdom or knowledge can assist in understanding it.

2. A wise ruler who is in harmony with The Way would govern passively. According to Taoism, implementing more laws that restrict people there are, the more poverty there is. The more ways of making profit that exist, the more disorder there will be. The greater amount of enforcement of laws there is, the greater the amount of thieves and robbers there will be. To avoid this, a ruler should simply not interfere. It is up to the ruler's subjects to find their own balance or peace.

3. The two handles of Legalism are chastisement and commendation. In simpler terms, chastisement is the infliction of death or torture upon culprits, or punishment. Commendation is the bestowing of encouragements or rewards on men who have done good. A ruler would use these handles to govern through making sure the appointed ministers behave. Ministers are afraid of chastisement and fond of commendation. By punishing the ministers who behave and rule poorly and rewarding ministers who do their job well, the ministers will fear the power of the ruler. As a result, the ministers will always try to get on the ruler's good side. A ruler would also make sure that the ministers are not abusing their power. If the ministers punish and reward unfairly, the ruler's subjects would try to get on the good side of the minister rather than the ruler.

4. When posed the question; What is the purpose of good government, a legalist would respond by saying that the purpose of a good government is to make sure that its subjects are obedient to their ruler and the ruler does everything he or she can to secure power. The goal of Legalism is to punish those who deserve punishment and reward those who deserve rewards. By having the ruler ultimately making the decision of who to punish and reward, the ruler maintains power and order. When posed the same question, A Taoist would respond by saying that the purpose of a good government is to make sure that the people achieve peace and order without interfering too much. If a government implements too many restrictions, it will only make the society worse.