

CONTENTS

- History of hpv
- Confucianism
- Taoism
- Religious syncretism in Singapore

LECTURE 1

1. History of HPV, by eisen
1988 -2001

1980 and before

Exclusively by the aw family

The 3 phases of construction

1946 to 54

Most changes were aw family changes and productions

1960 to 80s, not much changes

Donated to state in 1988

Additions according to tourism needs at the time

Of the construction

Pre 1980s\

1937—41: aw boon haw

1946 – 54: aw boon haw

Most storytelling grottos built this period

1950s plus

Aw cheng chye, boon par's son, Constructed caricatures and international statues such as the liberty statue and sumo wrestler

1980s: Singapore tourism crisis

- Tourist fell by 3.5% in 1983. A task force created in 1985 identified tiger balm gardens as a cultural heritage site.
- The STB classified HPV as an exotic east category
- STB concept was to make hpv into a Chinese myth theme park
- The park was designed to turn a profit
- A tender was won by ITP and 80 mil was poured in to develop the park

- The Aw family handed the park to the government as a lease. The condition is the original site will not be harmed and the additions do not contradict the heritage aspects of the park.

1990

- From Tiger Balm Gardens to Dragon World
- Marketed as only Chinese myth theme park
- Added a 65m concrete dragon as the centrepiece
- The grounds were expanded to 3 times the normal size.
- Made into an American style theme park. 2 water rides (Tales of China, Wrath of the Water Gods) and multimedia theatres were built (American accents)
- Anything not fitting with the Chinese myth theme was “relocated” to storage areas of the park
- A price of 16 dollars was charged for entry to the park, a hefty price in those days, contradicting Boon Haw's vision
- Park modified from the labyrinth style to a more geometric style of landscape.
- Dragon World never broke even as no one recognised its authenticity and was over commercialised.
- When ITP takes over, it hired a new general manager in 1994 and changed the name back to Haw Par Villa, the original Tiger Balm Gardens.

1995

- Back to Tiger Balm Gardens
- The park tried to return to its roots and attract both tourists and Singaporeans
- The park sought to move away from the Americanisation
- ITP poured another 6 mil into the revamp of the park.
- Boat ride replaced with cement walkway, sound effects added to Courts of Hell, Judges of Hell remade and enlarged
- Statues of Liberty and sumo wrestlers were replaced.
- A new exhibit to the Aw family was installed.
- An old family well was uncovered in the park.
- Chinese cultures and values reemphasized. – The 18 foot Guan Yin statue and 4 Chinese masks also added. Chinese myth characters and meaningful phrases in calligraphy were added. On stones and walls. NOT ON THE ARCHES
- DESPITE THE REVAMPS, THE PARK NEVER BROKE EVEN.
- ITP closed the park in 1997 and slashed the prices to 5 dollars.
- In 2000, ITP decided to return the park to STB after a loss of 31 million.
- A STB survey in 2000, 85% of Singaporeans did not want the park to close. This led STB to reopen the park.
- STB reopened the park in 2002

Late 1990

- THE MARK OF THE TIGER BALM GARDENS PARK
- 1996+ itp lost hope in the park.
- Many of the staff stayed on out of loyalty and transferred their own religious beliefs and love of the park's physical spaces and exhibits.
- They believed that some areas of the park were sensitive to spirits. Especially to spirits. To this end, they shifted some of the statues to do, what they believed, to increase the parks chances of survival by creating a harmonious environment. FENGSHUI

Some examples of their believes

- 10 cults were sensitive. The guan yin statues were placed and altars were created to improve the feng shui.
 - The hungry ghosts' festival altars were erected and the staff also used the altars to tell tourists about the festival.
 - They repainted the blue mountains brown
 - They painted an old vehicle to create the "tiger car" for tourists to take photos
 - They painted the tiger and leopard prints on dustbins.
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- Several statues accorded religious significance by tourist. For several years up to 2007, a large group of indo tourist came to pray to the laughing Buddha
 - The laughing Buddha and the sakyamuni Buddha were of particular attention
 - Donation boxes set up and used to fund the sites maintenance
 - The staff erected a statue "ke ku nai lao, ying shui si yuan" to bring out the "haw par spirit" to protect the park.
 - In summary, not everything we see was the vision of boon haw
- Major factors of the parks recreation is
- Attempts to commercialise the park
- Attempts to revert it back to its Chinese roots.
- Official neglect, giving the parks staffs the opportunity to remake the park.
- Can be seen as a tension of western values and Chinese values

Lecture 2- Confucianism

Origins, Historical development basic idea and significant thinkers

1. Confucius
2. Basic concepts of Confucianism
3. Key follow-up thinkers
4. Confucianism as a state orthodoxy

1. **CONFUCIUS**

Some interesting points:

- Has been followed in Chinese families for 2000 years
- 2000 counties have a temple for Confucius
- His code of conduct is seen as ideal as the ideal way of life
- It is a guide for human relations at all levels.
- Other countries such as n/s Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Taiwan
- Roughly 6 million people see themselves as Confucians
- 28 September is his birthday- though contested. It's a holiday in Taiwan

THE PERSON

- Born KONG QIU, Latinised Confucius
- 551 to 479 bce
- Qufu in Shandong province
- Eastern Zhou dynasty- the longest dynasty in Chinese history
- Origins- ancestors were aristocratic, but family were family stricken commoners by the time. Father died at 3, and brought up by mother. Married at 19
- He sought out masters to learn the 6 arts : ritual, music, archery, charioteering, calligraphy, arithmetic
- The classical traditions were highly regarded by him – poetry and history.

LATER YEARS

- Minor government posts.
- Kept accounts of granaries

40-50

- Became magistrate, assistant of public works and minister of justice.
- At this time, China was fragmented into 14 states. He served the king of LU.

Confucius immediate environment

- Political and social instability- weak king, feudal lords did not dare to overthrow king, but still waged war with each other. This caused the people to be taxed heavily. There was forced labour and starvation.
As a result, he decided that the government should be ethical and uphold the pleasure of its rulers.
- Advocated measures: reduce taxes, avoid wars.

Short lived political career

- His high morals caused him to be alienated from other lords, and from the king's inner circle. He left and couldn't find employment for 12 years
- This happened at the same time as sun Tzu's death. They were both searching for solutions to fix china's problems.

At 56: gathered many disciples and his reputation despite his leaving

At 67: returned home to teach preserve his cherished classical traditions through writing and editing.

At 73: passed away.

His grave is located in the Kong forest, his family's gravesite. Over 100000 graves there, best preserved in china and awarded by UNESCO

The philosophy of Confucianism

- His work is best recorded in the Analects. Compiled by his disciples. Preserved in both written and oral records, capturing what he say succinctly, in spirit and form.
Basic concepts
- Believed in the hierarchy of the universe. Not in a religious sense, but it exist nonetheless
- This "mandate of heaven" is reached through ethics, and should be taught and shared and used to help the community
- Importance of the family- you learn how to have relationship through the family. Thus must have a proper family.
- Focus on obligations, rather than rights, and prerogatives of the individual in relation to the society

The human ideal

- a man of enlightenment is one who is knowledgeable and yet interacts with society
- "sageness within and kingliness without"
- Believed that personal cultivation begins with learning
- Elevate man above animalism and towards status of being a superior man

Confucianism

- all these ideas predated Confucianism but were reinforced by the Confucian system

Key follow-up thinkers

Mengzi, or Mencius, appeared when china was disintegrating into the warring states. He travelled to inform governments and spread the ideal

Key to unifying the world: practice kingly governance rather than self-service and reliance on force.

Believed people are innately good

Hsun Tzu

Lived in a period where the war was becoming more ruthless. He believed people were innately bad

As an orthodoxy

State sanctioned during the Han dynasty

Respects paid by the emperor posthumously.

LECTURE 3: TAOISM

1. LAOZI
2. OTHER SIG FIGS
3. HIST ORIGINS AND DEVS IN CHINA
4. SPREAD OF TAO IN CHINA
5. TAO IN SG
6. BASIC CONCEPTS OF TAOISM -RELIGIOUS VS PHILOSOPHICAL

1. **LAOZI**
 - Author of Lao Tzu, or tao-te ching
 - Resume of his found in the "Historical records"
 - Held post of archivist in the Zhou court
 - Left court and went west when Zhou dynasty declined
2. **SIG FIGS**

