

Haw par villa lecture notes 2

The rejuvenation of hpv

Aims and objectives

- To bring back hpv as a rec area for firstly, singaporeans, and secondly tourists
 - Provide a new perspective to appreciate the significance and beauty → not just about the ten courts, but about the park as a whole.
 - Focus on the young → for Tourism50, and to launch programs for schools to appreciate hpv
 - Educational objectives → traditional values, and the history of the values and religions. ie the pan Asian heritage.
 - Pan Asian heritage
 - Enhance sustainability of the park. → through getting more people to appreciate the park.
- Next Singapore

Lectures

Haw Par Villa Festival by Razeen

Tour details

- prototype of actual tours.
- 45-60 mins long
- 16 tours, 2 at a time
- target is 1920 people max
- new tech available, ipad, wireless and sound system
- additional mandarin tours, and 20 mins presentations 8 times a day, separate to tour.

The Aw family and Legacy

- Notes given

The haw par park legacy

- notes given

Chinese civilisation context, by ms savi

- Zhong guo was isolated and surrounded by natural barriers, thought to be the centre of the universe.
- Creation myth of pan gu

SHANG DYNASTY

- Deification of huang di,
- Dynasties started with 2070 BCE, Xia dynasty, and followed by the Shang dynasty (1750 – 1050). Discovered oracle bones near Huang He.
- Shang di, supreme ruler already identified. → organised religion, ritualistic, worship forces of nature and animals.
- Well-defined social structures
- Human and animal sacrifice at Shang king graves
- This is continued by modern day traditional Chinese in ancestor worship, and giving items to the dead.

Zhou dynasty

- Great unrest
- The last 200 years were the Warring States period, ending with victory of Qin Shi Huang
- The idea of scholars and philosophers gave advice to improve the war-torn country – most famous being Confucius and Lao Zi, founders of Confucianism and Taoism respectively.

Qin dynasty

- 221 – 207 BCE
- “first emperor” to unify China
- Extended the Great Wall
- Legalist school of philosophy
- Burial of scholars and destruction of literature
- Centralised rule, and 36 provinces, coinage, standard of Chinese script
- Obsessed with immortality. Died drinking all the weird concoctions.

Han dynasty

- The largest after the Qin, with the expansion of the west
- Contact with central Asia
- Exchange of goods, trade, religion, culture. → development of the Silk Road, due to the popularity of it. Romans never met Chinese, but got silk through trade.
- Imperial exam for the civil service, developed long before the West civil service in government.
- Meritocratic, but only the rich can afford the studying process
- During this period, Buddhism spread to China.

Tang dynasty, 618 – 907

- Golden age of Buddhism

- innovation, printing paper, gunpowder, etc.

Mongol Rulers

- Yuan Dynasty

- Khans take over, throw out scholars and put in own people.

Chinese expansion

- Immigration of monks, china to india and vice versa.
- Exploration to places south, such as java (Indonesia)
- Cheng Ho, discovery and influence, all the way to east Africa (1405 – 1433, Ming Dynasty)
- Important for trade by sea and for the exchange of goods and ideas over sea.
- Introduction of the Peranakan community, expanded to most of SEA
- Ruled by the alien Manchus, though they gave china its shape, and giving rise to great expansion of territory
- Attempts to control exposure to overseas cultures, especially western expansion → Boxer rebellion, failed.
- Weakening of china much earlier due to opium wars and weakness of chinese officials.
- Carving up of china due to open door policy. Western powers take influence.
- Semi-colonial state
- Poverty and famine.
- Immigration of canton and amoy people. Migration illegal but possible for these period due to lax immigration laws because of natural land barriers and accessibility to ports.
- People immigrated south. Exchange of immigrants. Transport of people on hellships.
- In Singapore, the Raffles Town Plan was drawn, separating races. In china town, different ethnic groups were separated.

Chinese religion

- “The Three Teachings”
- Taoism, Buddhism, Confucianism
- Distinctive features, but practised as one a single religion

Taoism

- Early animistic beliefs, during the shang dynasty
- One of the earliest in china.
- Influenced korea, japan, etc
- Taoist principles exist in everyday life of diet, exercise, medicine etc
- Roots traced to 2000 bce, emerged organised around 600BCE
- Attributed to Lao Zi, Tao Te Ching.
- Contemporary of Confucius
- Archivist in royal palace.
- Lived during the decline of Zhou,
- Often depicted on oxen, leaving the chinese palace.
- Based on “Dao” – the way of nature, cycles of constant change, nameless and formless, primal forces of universe. Too vast for human comprehension, can be learned but not taught

Main Teachings

- Man should return to nature and live in harmony with nature and the universe.

- Emphasis on good character
- Look down on materialism, seek inner peace
- All troubles stem from human strivings by improper means.
- Wisdom and serenity come from conforming one's life to the natural laws of the universe
- "Wu Wei" : concept of non-being and not doing, respect for nature. The path of least resistance, letting nature take its course.
- No dualism, everything is relative. No black and white, no good or bad. Always "compared to what?"

Ying and Yang

- Two natural forces. Balance of opposing forces.
- Yin → shady side, female, dark, cold, heavy, passive
- Yang → male, light, fire, warmth, active
- Dynamic tension of these create 3 forces of the universe, heaven, earth and human (3 joss sticks)
- Heaven = spiritual, earth = physical, human = maintainers of balance.
- Humans straddle the line and perform rituals or repent or seek forgiveness to maintain the balance.

Harmony with nature

- Art is filled with mountains and caves → Taoist landscape
- Small depictions as humans → humans are the microcosm of the macrocosm of the universe.

Taoism in daily life

- Life made possible by Chi
- "how can person be in harmony with universe if body is not in balance?"
- Eg yoga and tai chi
- Acupuncture and acupressure
- Traditional chinese medicine and nutritional practices
- Feng shui

Quest for immortality

- Alchemy → elixir of life, made by Fangshi
- Experiments with plants and minerals, led to tcm, etc
- 8 immortals

Religious Taoism

- Taoism began to change, Chang Tao Lin
- Known as founder of religious Daoism
- Tian Shi Celestial Masters School
- To resist the rise of Buddhism, with systematic organised thought in Taoism
- Resulted in popular Taoism = Folk Religion

- Anthro-morphesised → gods attributed to the abstract ideas to help folks understand the system of thought

Taoism as religion

- Became main Taoist canon
- Written by monk based on 5000 character manuscript
- Tao te ching regarded as divine inspired manuscript
- Tang song and ming dynasty added or revised canons, total 3 now

Pantheon of gods

- Many goddesses

Taoism and Confucianism

- Both are concerned with practical moral behaviour and self-improvement,
- Guidance for moral life
- Attempt to explain the place of human beings in natural universe
- Taoism → believes in innate human goodness, harmony with nature most important, rejection of society and worldly ambition, is individualistic
- Confucianism → believes people need strong government and structure, although people are good, emphasis on relationships and personal conduct, society is put ahead of the individual

Confucianism, by Razeen

- Born Kong Qiu, latinized Confucius
- Born in QuFu city in Shandong
- 551 – 479 BCE
- Eastern Zhou Dynasty, at that time in history
- Minor government posts in early years, while becoming magistrate and minister of justice in later years
- Self-imposed exile at 56 years old, gathering disciples, and reportedly met Lao Zi. He was not employed
- Returned back home at 67, teaching to pass on his ideas rather than directly through the government.
- Preserve classical traditions of reading and editing
- Died at 73

Is it a religion?

- Not technically a religion. “When unable to do your duty to men, how can you do your duty to the spirits?”
- Confucianism permeated all aspects of chinese life, but lacked the formal structure and intensity of other religious institutions. Eg, no “spiritual” or “experts” that people defer to

- It is best described as code of conduct, way of life, and prescriptions about correct behaviour to other people and nature

In a nutshell

- Saw himself as a transmitter of traditions and values
- Used history and traditions as his tools
- People should live in harmony with nature and other people
- Highest calling in life is to government service
- Stressed the importance of hierarchy
- Favoured age over youth
- Only friends were equals
- The five most important relationships are: father and son; husband and wife; Elder brother and younger brother; friend and friend; ruler and subject. Father and son being the most important
- These are the relationships that must be in order before society can function
- Family Unit → Basic unit of society, natural environment for moral training, bridge between individual and society, full potential is achieved here, strongly patriarchal
- Strongest relationship is father and son, and adult sons must pay respect in life or death. → example of filial piety
- Fathers, in return must provide for the family.
- State seen as extended family → subjects owe loyalty and obedience to rulers
- Emperor expected to sacrifice to heaven for good of his people

Personal Cultivation

- External appearance, correct behaviour(li)
- Internal cultivation –Sincerity, Benevolence(ren), honesty(yi), Moral Wisdom(zhi), Faithfulness(xin)
- End result is the Jun Zi, the Chinese Gentlemen

Impact of Confucianism

- Adopted Confucianism as state doctrine and religion during Han dynasty, Emperor WuDi
- State-run imperial exams for imperial officials → Meritocracy, anyone who works for it can become officials.
- Idea of the scholar officials, commanded greater respect and prestige than any other group in society
- Confucianism became the unifying force for stability in China.
- Became the basis for Chinese education systems for 2000 years

Buddhism, by Savi

- Non-theistic religion
- Offshoot of Hinduism
- Origins 2500 years ago when Siddhartha Gautama was enlightened at age 35

- Shared his insight to help sentient beings end suffering through elimination of ignorance and craving
- Understanding the origin of suffering
- Goal to achieve nirvana

Spread of Buddhism

- Theravada. Mahayana, different spreads

Icons of Buddhism

- Prince who left the palace at 29
- 4 sights, old age, sickness, death, wandering holy man
- Decided to become a holy man, leaving a ascetic life.
- No answer after 6 years
- Rescued by a passing milkmaid
- He went to meditate under a Bodhi tree, and there discovered nirvana
- Abandoned the ascetic rigour and discovered the “middle way” of avoiding extremes
- Taught Dharma “Law of cosmic order”
- Died at 80 years.

Heart of Buddhist teachings

- 4 noble truths
- Dukka – suffering is part of life. Realisation through analysis
- Dukka samudaya – cause of suffering? Realisation that it's an effect of ignorance
- Dukka nirodha – cessation of cravings by ending ignorance
- Dukka nirodha gamini patipeda- cessation of suffering achieved by following the Noble Eightfold Pathway
- The eightfold path → right understanding, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration
- 5 precepts, for normal people in everyday life, --Refrain from killing –refrain from stealing – refrain from sexual misconduct –refrain from false speech –refrain from intoxicating things that cloud the mind
- These are all conveyed through parables and stories.

Main principles

- Rebirth → reincarnation inherited from Hinduism → known as samsara
- Law of Karma → consists of individuals thoughts words and deeds, action and reaction
- Nirvana → release from cycle of rebirth

Main Schools

- Theravada → Closer to original teachings, rigorous ascetism, individual has to find own way, good works, merit. This was mainly transmitted to SEA

- Mahayana → worships using relics for salvation and to solve worldly problems. Heaven, Buddha became supernatural god, is actually worshipped. Bodhisattvas are people who have gained enlightenment. Guan Yin is most famous Bodhisattvas → spread to East Asia
- Guan Yin, Male indian monk, popular translation of scriptures recounting his healing powers, over time merged with female Goddess of mercy. Sometimes depicted with 1 breast and one flat chest.

Spread of Buddhism

- Buddha asked his followers to go forth and spread his word following his death.
- Through the spice route(maritime route, SEA-Burma-thailand-indonesia), silk road
- After fall of Han dynasty, 2nd century CE, after fall of Han dynasty
- The reason for popularity was that Tao and Confucius did not talk about the after life. Whereas Buddhism explained the afterlife clearly. Thus it was accepted as one of the 3 Great Truths after some modification
- Another reason was that Buddhism preached equality amongst the people. No matter social status, good karma will be rewarded in this life or next. This gave people hope.
- The king Asoka spread it(350-150BCE~Mauryan empire). Story is, he was Hindu, as he fought and overtook the kingdom of Kalinga. He saw the destruction reigned by his wars and he wondered why he did all this . He was attracted to the Buddhist teachings and actively spread them. Many edicts written or carved and spread all over Mauryan empire. Even Greece has some
- Stupas, dome shaped structures, housed relics of Buddha, look just like the Aw family memorials

Gupta Empire

- Golden Age of India
- Nalanda University. Attracted scholars from Tibet and China and Greece and Persia. Centre of Buddhist thought

Journey to the West

- Xuan Zang, 645 CE.

Religious Syncretism in Singapore

- Chinese leaving brought the “3 Great Truths” to Singapore
- The cultural situation in Singapore made a unique religion in Singapore
- Called “Shen-ism”. Philosophical and doctrinal religions vs Village level practices. V-level was more ritualistic, rather than on the philosophical truths from the religions
- Top- Buddhist / Taoist beliefs and practices, bedrock of Confucianism

Temples

- In Singapore, the Thian Hock Keng Temple, Ma Chu Po (Tao) and Guan Yin (Buddhist) are syncretic
- Taoist → Guan Di, Guan Gong, Buddhist → Guan Yin, Buddhas. These are all in the same temple.
- Confucianist principles, ancestor worship and heaven worship, and moral principles
- Malayan → Da Bo Gong, dua pek gong

Haw Par Villa

- Buddhist, Taoist and Confucian religions
- Religious beliefs of Staff members also played a part

The reason for syncretism

- Survival
- To have something familiar in Singapore. Though time for Chinese immigrants.
- Some deities were more worshipped. Guan Yin, Compassion and mercy. Guan Yin for brotherhood, Tua Pek Gong, blessing in trade. Also a preoccupation in the afterlife, birthing the hungry ghosts festival.
- For Confucianism. In China, loyalty to emperor. In Singapore, loyalty to clan leaders. Pursuit of wealth was for community around them PLUS the family back in China.
- Effectively, Singaporeans do not draw a straight line between Tao and Buddhist beliefs.
- The type of syncretism also was affected by, type of migrants, conditions of migrants, colonial religious freedom in Singapore.

Confucianism in Singapore

- A bedrock of values, covered with Tao and Buddhist people
- When the PAP was formed, they identified traditional cultural values as an idea of mass appeal. After 1970, after economic success, these values were more accepted.
- Western values, seen as corrupt and not agreeable to PAP –individualism, promiscuity, drugs, decadence
- Confucian values were adopted and taught in school.
- This suited the PAP agenda. Care for your own parents, Work hard and work for community. Paternalistic families.
- Religious knowledge was taught in schools.
- PAP admitted that Western cultures were less desirable, so Confucianism was the answer
- Not accepted generally because of the political reasons.
- Downgraded to optional subject due to lack of popularity
- Eventually removed.