

Reading Response 4

In the readings for this past week, Mozi argues that rulers fail to achieve prosperity due to not honoring and employing worthy and capable people. The reality is that wealth and status is generally used as a factor for choosing high ranking individuals, resulting in the degradation of government. I agree with Mozi in this, in that social background or bias should not be a factor in choosing someone for a particular role. This is something seen commonly even today, where a person may be preferred for a job due to some social factor that has nothing to do with the task. This creates a society which is no longer merit based, where important jobs may not be done as well as they should be due to incompetence. There are a special 3 letters which describe the current program I'm referring to, which is effectively a modern day version of what Mozi is teaching against. Choosing a person not because of their accomplishments and talents, rather due to some irrelevant factor of the person's background. Honoring the worthy is of utmost importance if the desired outcome is prosperity.

Moving onto a later book in the chapter (book 20), Mozi teaches the importance of eliminating wasteful expenditures. Luxury cars (horses in his time?), designer clothing, mansions, and diamonds are unnecessary items which go beyond serving their basic purpose to man, and the resources for these things should be reallocated elsewhere in order to not become unnecessarily overbearing. I feel that, while these frivolous things are attractive in nature, they are a terrible waste of money. To have excess in your savings account does not mean you should go spend it on your appearance, or on a slightly better and much more flashy experience in a car or house. The essentials need to be reliable and efficient, nothing more. Any excess someone may have is always better spent elsewhere, such as reinvesting in a company, or even trying to start one. Maybe this isn't your idea of a good life, in which case just save the money, spend it on a hobby, whatever. There are so many better ways to spend your excess than to go buy some \$300 shirt that gets stained just the same as my boring \$20 shirt. In short, luxury items drive Mozi and I up a f*cking wall.