Chinese Religion, Philosophy and Beliefs

Social Studies 8 - McDade

SHANG BELIEFS (pp. 78-79)

* The Shang Dynasty lasted from 1650-1027 BCE and many of the beliefs from this time are still relevant in China
* The Shang believed in many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* One of the most important gods was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who was responsible for sending good \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, help in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The family was a union of both the living and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ family members.
* The Shang \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ acted as a priest and Shang people thought that the high gods would prefer to deal with ancestors of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rather than with the ancestors of ordinary people.
* People made regular offerings of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to ancestors.
* The Shang believed that nature was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which was symbolized by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The ying-yang symbol reflects the idea that everything contains its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and that all parts of nature are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The Shang also believed that the earth was made up of five \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which were wood, metal, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - everything on earth was a combination of these natural forces.
* They also believed that there was an essential life force called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (pronounced \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) that governed the universe.
* *Fengshui* experts were called on before deciding where to build anything to make sure that surroundings were in order with the spirit world. *Feng* means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and *shui* means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

CONFUCIANISM (pp. 82-83)

* Kongfuzi (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) lived from about 551 to 479 BCE.
* He believed that people were basically \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but needed to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to behave well.
* Confucius identified five \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and five \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that were the building blocks of a harmonious society.
* To be considered virtuous, people had to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The five relationships were father and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, ruler and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, older and younger \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, husband and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and friend and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_were regarded as less important then men.
* For over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years, Confucian teachings have been important in China.
* Confucius did not try to create a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but he believed that society should be more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

LEGALISM (p. 83)

* The philosophy of Legalism developed around the same time as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was the most prominent writer on Legalism.
* Legalists believed that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was more important than the people and that it should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not virtuous.
* According to Legalists, humans were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by nature.
* The only was to have an orderly society was for the government to control people through strict \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and harsh \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* For most of Chinese history, people followed Confucian ideas of government but Chinese \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ seemed to followe Legalist ideas.
* China’s first recorded code of laws was prepared in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ under Zhou. It had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sections. It was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ many times by later dynasties but the law always kept this basic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* For a crime, the accused had to prove his or her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in court which is the opposite of the situation in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ today.
* There were five basic penalties: death by decapitation or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ punishment was also used by judges meaning that whole families or villages would be punished for a crime committed by one of its members.

DAOISM (p. 85)

* Daoism was based on the teachings of the philosopher \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The goal of Daoists was to live in harmony with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and by following the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or “the way,” they could accomplish this goal.
* Daoists through that the harmony of nature could be copied in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* They were opposed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and to social tools such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* From the beginning, Daoists were in conflict with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* In later times, Daoists began to seek \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by following the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and strengthening their life force called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Immortality could be achieved by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ properly and taking the proper \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The experiments of Daoists in their search for immortality led to many important discoveries in the fields of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

BUDDHISM (pp. 91-92)

* Buddhism is different from many religions because it does not include worship of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* It is based on the teachings of an Indian prince, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who gave up wealth and family to seek an answer to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of the world.
* After much searching, he received \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and became the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or “enlightened one.”
* Buddha said that suffering occurred only when people were too concerned with themselves and their own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* In Buddhism, people free themselves of worldly concerns through retreat into a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Useful tools for meditation are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - colourful paintings that help unfocus the mind so it can find its way to higher truths.
* Buddhists believed in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - the idea that a soul is reborn until it finds enlightenment which is thre true knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* In China, Buddhism was sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people.
* It was an appealing faith in a time of political \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Buddhism inspired much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

1. What religion/ philosophy/ belief resonates with you the most and why?
2. If you were the emperor of China during the Tang Dynasty, which philosophy would you select to dominate your court: Confucianism, Legalism or Daoism? Explain your choice.
3. How would Confucius describe a good ruler?
4. How would Han Feizi describe a good ruler?
5. How would Laozi describe a good ruler?
6. What evidence of Chinese medicine developed by Daoists have you encountered?