World Cultures ~ Weekly Assignments
Dr. Plummer
Spring 2008

Week 6: Feb. 18, 20, 22

Topic: Taoism

Film: Saving Face
The reading will be a handout.

Reminders: This is the last week to reserve your Rosza tickets. Do it today or face dire consequences!

Readings:

Eastman:
“The Old Master” pp. 218—226
“Tao Te Ching” pp. 226—233
“Chuan Tzu” pp. 233—240
“The Chinese Mind” pp. 240—246

Word List:

Lao Tzu “The Old Master” “The way to do is to be”
Tao/Dao yin
Tao Te Ching yang
Chuan Tzu ineffable

Study Questions:

1. What would be the key features of a society organized around the principles of Taoism? Who would rule? What laws would you expect? How would people spend their time?

2. Create a piece of art inspired by the Tao te Ching or Chuan Tzu. Write a poem, paint a picture, draw a flow chart, compose a melody, design a garden, build a snow sculpture. Whatever your preferred medium is, use it to explore a metaphor from Taoism.

3. Lin Tung-chi says that all Chinese are both Taoist and Confucian. How do these two ways of thinking fit together and complement each other? Do you see places where the two might come into conflict?

4. Create a chart comparing Taoism with Hinduism and Buddhism. The Tung-chi and Spiegelberg readings have clues to help you with this task.