



Non-fiction

Group 3

New Tales of Judge Pao: An Icon of Justice

Heep Yunn School, Lam, Yat Yu – 13

A commanding figure, cloaked in black. On his forehead is a crescent moon, a fitting symbol of serenity and wisdom; an unsullied light in the midst of darkness, as he is. Known for his fairness and adamant incorruptibility, he has long been a legendary figure, an icon of justice in Chinese history. Solving countless crimes with impeccable judgement and reasoning, fighting against corruption among the nobility while caring for the concerns of the peasants, he has not only gained much fame and respect, but also left considerable impact in our modern society. From the past to present, many works about him have been created, although mostly fictionalized, the spirit of these tales—his unwavering righteousness—remains. History remembers him as Judge Pao.

His alias of Judge Pao is nowadays worldwide famous, earning him several honorific titles such as 'Justice Pao', 'Bao Gong' et cetera. However, this historical figure's identity is often not as well known. The character of Judge Pao portrayed in stories is based on a real Chinese government official named Bao Zheng. He lived during the Song dynasty, under the rule of Emperor Renzong. Born into a scholar family, Bao could afford to receive education, but still lived a simple subsistent life in the low working class. As he grew up among commoners, he understood the hardships and injustice many of them faced. This led to Bao developing strong morals and a firm sense of uprightness, which were qualities he carried throughout the 25 years of his service in the government, regardless of the position he held. It was also during his early years when his talent for reasoning and judgement was discovered, under the influence of his father. With his gifted intellect and much effort put into his studies, Bao passed the imperial exam at the age of 29, obtaining the title of 'Jinshi', which was the highest level of distinction in the exam and earned him the qualifications needed to become a government official.

Over the time he served in the government, Bao held multiple positions, from the magistrate of Tianchang to prefect of Kaifeng to the minister of finance. In all of these posts, Bao continuously demonstrated his imperturbable incorruptibility and insightful sense of judgement. For instance, when he was the prefect of Duanzhou, a place renowned for its high quality inkstones, Bao discovered the misconduct and bribery the previous prefects committed by collecting more inkstones than the required amount for court tribute then bribing influential officials with them. Bao not only put a stop to this unlawful practice, but also left without an inkstone himself when his term of office ended. Moreover, Bao was not afraid of pointing out mistakes in governmental policies or impeaching high-ranking officials, even if it meant offending powerful nobles, royalty or even the emperor, which could result in severe consequences. This was a taboo for many officials, hence Bao's boldness in pursuing justice was what that gained him much respect.

As aforementioned, although many of the stories about Judge Pao are only legends or imaginary, it was indeed Judge Pao's character, which was based on the personality traits of the real Bao Zheng, that made them popular. Aside from the captivating plots and scenes of these tales, the reason why the stories were beloved, especially among the Chinese, was that Judge Pao's persona consisted of a variety of virtues and positive traits considered significant in the traditional Chinese culture. In short, Judge Pao had many of the characteristics that Chinese people regarded as ideal in a person. Three of his most significant qualities include his relentless pursuit for justice, his righteousness and wisdom in his judgement. The first two of the above traits are mentioned in the Confucian fundamental principles of morality, whilst intelligence has always been considered as a positive trait. Therefore, Judge Pao's personality is often vividly illustrated in his tales.

One of classic traits most associated with Judge Pao is his uncompromising belief in justice. Solving criminal cases, uncovering the truth and sentencing the culprit with a fair degree of punishment is the essence of justice, and it is what Judge Pao has been striving for in nearly all of his crime stories. To achieve justice, Judge Pao's righteousness comes into play. His concern for the lower class in society; his hatred for corruption and wrongdoing added up with his determination to eradicate crime inspires him to fight for the weak and against the powerful. Take the tale of Judge Pao Cleverly Executes Court Official Lu for example. This story begins with how a favored official of the emperor, Official Lu commits heinous crimes, including kidnapping both the wives of silversmith Lee and Governor Zhang. When Judge Pao, who has been wanting to sentence Official Lu for his past offenses, hears about this, he has

an ingenious idea of miswriting Official Lu's name on the memorial for his sentence in order not to be discovered by the emperor, then writing his name correctly on the memorial after approval so that Official Lu would be executed. Judge Pao's plan succeeds, Official Lu is executed, bringing both families of Lee and Zhang back together. This is a perfect example reflecting how Judge Pao seeks justice for the weak who are harmed and takes action to punish the powerful who deserve it with his unswerving sense of uprightness.

Another of Judge Pao's celebrated characteristics is his wisdom, with which he unravels numerous mysterious crimes and makes fair judgement in cases. This is emphasized in many of the cases, for instance the story of Judge Bao Cleverly Investigates the Circle of Chalk. Hai-tang, the main character of the tale, is taken into the house of a wealthy tax collector Ma as his second wife after being sold into prostitution. However, Ma's first wife grows jealous of Hai-tang after she bears Ma his first son named Shoulang, leading to her poisoning Ma and framing Hai-tang for it. She also claims Shoulang as her own son as to successfully inherit Ma's property, while Hai-tang confesses to a crime she did not commit after being tortured, and awaits the death sentence. Fortunately, Judge Pao notices something suspicious in the case and comes to Hai-tang's rescue by holding a test to determine the real mother of Shoulang. With Shoulang placed in the middle of a chalk circle between Hai-tang and the first wife, the two women are ordered to pull him towards themselves. Having no qualms, the first wife grabs Shoulang, but Hai-tang, his real mother, could not bear to hurt her child. Hai-tang's display of genuine concern and worry for Shoulang is the very evidence needed to prove that she is indeed his real mother, hence Judge Pao deems her innocent and arrests the first wife for the murder of Ma. The story is one of the many examples of how Judge Pao unravels hidden truths through his insightful perceptions and creative strategies to obtain proof. Thus, it is reflected how Judge Pao utilizes his intelligence in achieving justice.

From the ancient ages to the present time, numerous works about Judge Pao have been produced, and they have remained favorites of the public, no matter in the form of traditional plays and novels, or as modern day crime fiction stories and television shows. The character Judge Pao is now a household name, and I believe he will be just as well known in the future, for he still represents some of the most valued traits in humanity. An icon of legal justice in ancient China; a symbol of righteousness and integrity, history will remember his name, for now and forever.

My Great Model and the Committed Judge – Pao Cheng

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Ying, Cheuk Kiu Cheryl – 13

Black clouds surrounded the world, bright future had been blurred.

Since a legend was born in Song, commoners' lives would be saved.

The man with justice brought the light, corruption of the imperial soon eliminated.

For any locals or anyone who knows about the righteous judge in Chinese history, they would definitely recall the stories of Pao Cheng after reading the poem above.

My encounter with Judge Pao all began when I was still a student of primary school (four years ago). At that time, reading was my only hobby, and I took it as some sort of treasure hunting. Every time I read a book, I could discover some new and concealed gems which conveyed the knowledge about the world. Thus, I always borrowed books from the library. One of my favourite books at that time was the comic 'Seven Heroes and Five Gallants'. I read it again and again as its plot was exceptionally alluring and breathtaking. 'Judge Pao' was also one of my favourite characters. I greatly admire his righteousness and wisdom, since I dreamt to be a detective when I grow up. He is not only an idol of my childhood but also a model of my life.

Although I have learnt about Judge Pao from comic books, the stories might not be adequately comprehensive to describe the facts of him. Therefore, I searched for books in libraries to understand him more. In the following, let me introduce the great judge and his achievements.

In 999, Pao Cheng was born into a scholar's family in present day's Hefei, Anhui Province in eastern China. He was nimble and eager to learn in his childhood. As his father was a close friend of the local county magistrate, he started to become interested in studying various cases, and he waited for a great chance to show his flair in reasoning and judgement.

Pao's dream of serving his people came to true in 1027 when Pao Cheng passed the highest-level imperial examination by his hard-work and received the title of Jinshi or "sit presented scholar", which qualified him to become a government official. However, concerning his ageing parents, he didn't begin his career right away till 10 years later, after the death of his parents while Pao observed all the required mourning rituals. He earned a good reputation for his love for his parents, and that was indeed a good foundation for starting his career.

After taking care of his parents for 10 years, he served as the magistrate of Kaifeng which was the capital of the Song Dynasty. He fought against the corruption of both provincial and central administrative offices. Moreover, he treated all levels in the society equally. Even though the wrongdoer was the closest relative of the emperor himself, Pao had no fear at all, instead, he would give him the same punishment as a commoner.

Moreover, Pao Cheng was granted a golden rod and an imperial sword by the previous emperor, which allowed him to punish the incumbent emperor and execute convicted criminals without the prior permission from the emperor. In addition, he had been given the three knives from the emperor for executing criminals: one decorated with a dog's head for the commoners, one with a tiger's head for the government officials and one with a dragon's head for the nobles.

And at last, Pao Cheng ended his legendary life at the age of 69 in 1068.

In legends, the character Judge Pao solved a lot of well-known cases. A famous one is 'The Case of Executing Chen Shimei'. It is about a man named Chen Shimei who placed first in the imperial examination and had a marriage with the princess who allow him to be the brother-in-law of the emperor. However, he had his own family, a wife and two children, which he concealed to the emperor. Years later, Qin Xianglian, the wife of Chen Shimei, and her children were forced to move away by a famine. They moved to the capital and found out what happened to Chen. Qin asked for his help to take care of their children but he refused to take up any responsibilities. After that, to avoid his secret being revealed, Chen sent his servant to kill his own family. However, his servant helped the whole family escape. Then, Qin brought the case to Judge Pao. Pao tried the case and Chen finally received a heavy sentence, which was an execution in spite of pressures and threats from the imperial family. It showed that Judge Pao had no fear of the powerful authorities at that time.

Another case is 'The Case of Executing Pao Mian'. It is about Pao Cheng's nephew, Pao Mian, who became a county magistrate, was found taking guilty of misconduct acts. He used to be unprejudiced in every case, but since Pao Mian's mother, Wu, treated Pao Cheng as her own son when he was little, he started to struggle between the Confucian concepts of loyalty and filial piety. At last, he executed his nephew and went to his sister-in-law to apologise tearfully and ask for forgiveness. It shows that Judge Pao judged people impartially in any situation.

As Pao Cheng had lots of achievements, his story had been adapted in popular fiction and drama, such as 'Bao Gong An' in the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644) and 'Seven Heroes and Five Gallants' in the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911). Therefore, most people regard Pao Cheng not as the minister and political critic of documented history but as the courtroom judge of the classic work.

With the advantage of different adaptations of Pao Cheng's legends, his stories have been spread around the world. Not only known by Chinese people, he is also renowned in some foreign countries.

In France, a Chinese editor, Xu Ge Fei, founded FEI, a press which chiefly publishes Chinese classic tales. She found Patrick Marty, a french TV screenwriter to create a comic which could facilitate westerners' understanding of Chinese culture. Marty accepted the invitation and then did research to select a suitable theme for the comic. Coincidentally, he found out the legends of the popular Chinese Judge. He was impressed by Pao Cheng's image of wisdom and courage. Xu Ge Fei, Patrick Marty and the Chinese cartoonist, Nie Chong Rui later collaborated to depict the brand-new Judge Pao.

After appearing on the market in France, it became well-liked in just an instant. It soon released the Italian and Dutch versions in the same year. Two years later, the English and Chinese versions were launched. It was confirmed that the tales of Judge Pao undoubtedly achieved an appreciable work on out-spreading Chinese culture.

Since lots of works use Judge Pao's stories and legends as the prototype of their plots, people know not only about the character, Judge Pao, but also the real person Pao Cheng progressively, and they start to understand more about his righteousness, wisdom and bravery. For me, it is also a new perspective to learn further about the meritorious traits of Pao Cheng, apart from enjoying the judicial stories of him. There is always something we can learn from this greatest judge of all, and personally, I believe that his stories will be passed on and continued be the comfort of the underprivileged and the oppressed.

The Legend, the Hero, the Judge

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Chu, Kwee Emely – 12

Judge Pao, China's Sherlock Holmes.
Who existed in a time without phones.
The Chinese icon of justice.
And also known for his heroism.

Judge Pao, the symbol of justice, a representative of all honest and upright officials.

He, a crusading figure with a passion to fight crime and clean up the corrupted land, bearing the name that may ring many bells worldwide as there are a number of books and movies inspired by his life, including books and TV shows, such as 'Justice Pao', 'Legend of Kaifeng' etc.

Recently, I have watched a few episodes of 'Justice Pao' myself with a few friends, as we were curious about the righteous figure after our Chinese History teacher briefly introduced this righteous figure in class. After watching one of his famous cases, The Case of Two Nails, I was so much impressed by Pao Zheng who investigated a man's suspicious death while the cause of death was unknown. After an autopsy, his coroner confirmed that there was no wound on the body. Later, the coroner had discussed the case with his wife, who mentioned that someone could force long steel nails into the brain without injuring the body. After a brief investigation, the dead man's widow was arrested, as the coroner found a nail in the body's brain. Afterwards, Pao Zheng questioned the coroner's wife and learned that her first husband had died. He immediately ordered his guards to go to the cemetery and to dig up her first husband's coffin. Sure enough, her first husband had died the same way as the widow's husband did. This interesting story immediately drew my attention and I started to dig up more information about Judge Pao then.

From a pool of information, many might know that Judge Pao, also known as Pao Zheng or Pao Gong who was a Chinese politician during the reign of Emperor Renzong in China's Song Dynasty (960–1279). During his years in civil service, Pao has demonstrated extraordinary uprightness and fairness with actions such as sentencing his own relative, impeaching the relative of the emperor's concubine and punishing some wicked members of powerful families. His appointment as the prefect of Song's capital Kaifeng, where he initiated a number of changes to better the life of the poor, to hear the grievances of the people, allowed him to be a legendary figure.

During his years in office, he attained the title of Justice Pao due to his extraordinary ability to defend peasants and commoners against corruption or injustice, and had never accepted any bribes from powerful people.

Though Pao was not born to a very well-off family, he was born into a scholar family in today's Hefei in eastern China. In TV dramas, he's portrayed to have dark skin and a crescent moon birthmark on his forehead, symbolizing brightness and purity, it characterized his righteousness and upright character. His father was a scholar and an official, while his grandfather was a commoner. As Pao grew up among the low working class, he grew sympathetic towards the hardships ordinary people had to go through, he also hated corruption and strongly desired for justice, thus inspiring him to become a Chinese officer who was honest and never accepted bribery from anyone, while other officials at that time were indulged with material enjoyment, and thus being corrupted and received bribery from the rich in return for their blind judgement in the court.

Unlike the other children in most ordinary families, Pao was a gifted child and he studied very hard. In 1027, at the age of 29, he passed the highest-level imperial examination and obtained the title of Jinshi, which qualified him to become a government official. Pao was appointed as a magistrate of Jianchang County, but he only started his official career for a decade later in order to take care of his aging parents and observe all the mourning rituals. For this, Pao Zheng had earned a good reputation for his filial piety.

After a decade of being a filial son, Pao Zheng, served as the magistrate of Kaifeng, capital of the Song Dynasty. He fought against corruption in both provincial and central administrative offices. He punished wrongdoers from all levels of society, from commoners to the relatives of the emperor himself.

In 1040, Judge Pao was promoted to the prefect of modern Zhaoqing, a prefecture famous for its high-quality inkstones (a traditional Chinese stationery. It's a stone mortar for the grinding and containment of ink), a number of which were presented to the imperial court. However, Judge Pao had discovered that the previous prefects had collected far more inkstones from manufacturers than the required tribute — several dozens times more — in order to bribe them with the extras. Pao Zheng abolished the practice by telling manufacturers to fill only the required quota.

As a hardworking and loyal officer, in 1044, at the age of 45, Pao Zheng had returned to the capital. For the next two years as an investigating censor, Pao submitted at least 13 memoranda to Emperor Renzong of Song on military, taxation, the examination system, and governmental fraudulence and incompetence.

In 1057, at the age of 58, Pao Zheng was appointed to the magistrate of present day Kaifeng. He held the position for a mere period of one year, but he had initiated a number of administrative reforms such as allowing citizens to directly lodge complaints with the city administrators, thereby bypassing the city clerks who were believed to be nefarious and in the pay of local powerful families. Although Judge Pao gained a lot of fame and popularity from his reforms, his service after the tenure as magistrate of Bian was controversial. For instance, when Pao was appointed to these offices as Zhang's successor. Someone then filed a rebuke against him.

Our heroic figure left us in 1062, Pao Zheng died in the Capital City of Kaifeng at the age of 69. It was recorded that he left the following warning for his family: "Any of my descendants who commits bribery as an official shall not be allowed back home nor buried in the family burial site. He who shares not my values is not my descendant." Pao Zheng was buried in Daxingji in 1063. His tomb was rebuilt by officials in 1066. Lady Dong, one of his two wives (the other being Lady Zhang), died in 1068 and was buried next to him.

According to some stories, in 1973, the remains of Pao Zheng and his family were carried out in 11 wooden coffins and transported back to the hometown of Pao Zheng, DaPaocun. However, the local commune secretary there would not allow their ancestors' remains to be buried on the grounds, otherwise they would be destroyed immediately. Pao Zheng's descendants, worrying that the remains would be eradicated, secretly hid them elsewhere without knowing what to do. The remains, consisting of Pao Zheng's bone fragments, was later be sent to Beijing for forensics research before they were returned to the newly reconstructed cemetery. In 1985, the Pao Gong Cemetery was reconstructed next to the Pao Gong Temple in Hefei in the forested area of Henan and was completed in 1987 to preserve the remains of Judge Pao and artifacts from the former tombs.

According to legends, Pao Zheng was granted a golden rod and an imperial sword by the previous emperor, which gave him the authority to reprimand the incumbent emperor and execute convicted criminals without prior approval from the emperor. Once, Judge Pao used the dragon-headed knife to execute a son-in-law of the emperor. The famous case was about an originally poor scholar, who, after winning the first place in the imperial examination, married one princess while hiding the fact that he had a wife and a family in his hometown. In order to prevent his secret from being exposed, he ordered someone to kill his own wife and children. Judge Pao, again, with remarkable intelligence could solve this case with no difficulty at all.

After reading all the information we have found and collected, we've learnt a lot about Judge Pao's admirable personality and background. We would love to visit the reconstructed cemetery one day. We think that everyone should be honest and be fair to everyone, no matter their social status, appearance, race and culture. Let us learn from Judge Pao today, so we will be an honest person who is willing to stand up for the voiceless, the marginalised and the poor.



Creative Writing
Non-Fiction

Group 3

Judge Pao

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Have you ever heard of Judge Pao? Have you ever seen him on television shows, or read about him in books? If you haven't, this passage about Judge Pao will definitely help you know more about this legendary figure!

Judge Pao was born in Shexian on the 5th March, 999. In fact, his father was a scholar and an official working for the government. Although their family members could afford Pao to go to school, his mother had to climb up mountains to collect firewood just right before she gave birth to Pao! How impressive! As Pao grew up among the grassroot working class, he understood the hardships in people's lives, and understood the importance of justice among their country. So he was determined to be an unbiased judge when he grew up.

Pao passed the highest level of imperial examination when he was 29 years old and successfully qualified as a Jinshi. Through his life of justice, Pao solved some of the most mind-wrecking mysteries. Many citizens were impressed by Pao's intelligence. One of his most famous cases was "The Case of Two Nails". Pao investigated a husband's death whose cause had been ruled natural. However, Pao's coroner confirmed that there were no injuries on his body. At home, the coroner discussed the case with his wife, who mentioned that people could put long nails into others' brains, leaving no injuries or traces on the body. The next day, the coroner found a long nail indeed, and soon the wife of the victim was arrested for murdering her own husband. After all that fiasco, Pao went to question the coroner's wife, and found out the coroner was her second husband, while her first husband died. Pao ordered the guards to go to the cemetery and opened his coffin. Unsurprisingly, there was a long nail in his brain, too. Judge Pao successfully solved two cases.

Judge Pao was a very intelligent official, he died in 1062 in the capital city of Kaifeng. I am very impressed by his wit and his courage to solve mysteries and come face-to-face with those evil criminals lurking around on the streets. I do hope I can be as brave as him, maybe I can be the next Judge Pao in the future, who knows?

The Story of Judge Pao

Man Kwan Pak Kau College, Lui, Ming Fung – 13

If we talk about Chinese history, we must have to mention a guy. In the thousands of years of history, he is one of the most dazzling stars. He is the character of our article. Judge Pao

Movies and TV portray him with a black face, with a crescent moon on his forehead. He is selfless, admirable. Even in front of the emperor, he was outspoken, dared to supervise, and disregarded his own life and death.

At that time, there was an officer in a country who was greedy and corrupt, and he did all kinds of evil, he also relied on himself as a relative of the emperor, corrupted the law and committed all kinds of evil. When Judge Bao found out, he sent someone to monitor his every move mercilessly. At first, that officer didn't care much, but when he knew it was Judge Bao, his arrogance suddenly disappeared, he knelt down and begged for mercy, and asked Judge Bao to come to his mansion, saying that he surrendered himself, but in fact, he wanted to bribe Judge Bao. When he arrived at the mansion of the officer, the officer went out to greet him in person, and behaved amiably. The officer and Judge Bao sat on the stone bench in the garden and chatted. Judge Bao felt very puzzled, and after a while, the officer carried out several boxes and added: "This is a little gift, please accept it." Judge Bao opened the box and saw there is a lot of money. He was secretly surprised: The officer didn't surrender himself but wanted to bribe me! Then the officer said in a deep voice: "I don't understand what you mean." Seeing that Judge Bao pretended to be confused, he said bluntly: "Bao, as long as you let me go, the money will belong to you. There is a reward, you can choose gold and silver, Bao, I will let you eat well and live well, and enjoy the glory and wealth forever. What do you think?" The officer thought that Judge Bao would agree, but Judge Bao's answer surprised him: "officer, being an official is only for the people, not for money. You said you would surrender, but now it seems that is not the case." After speaking, he strode out of the officer's mansion, and dealt with it fairly when he returned.

It was Judge Bao's honesty and integrity and he won everyone's respect and love. He is famous in history all over China and even the world.

Deliverer of Justice

Shanghai American School, Huang, Kaylee – 13

Judge Pao (commonly known as Bao Zheng and Bao Gong), was one of the most famous politicians during the Chinese Song Dynasty. He was known throughout the nation for his strong sense of justice and integrity, continuously proving his worth during the years spent getting justice for those who were wronged. Bao completed 25 years of civil service and consistently served as a model of rectitude for the citizens of Ancient China. This resulted in him gaining the title of Justice Bao, which represented how strong his moralities were when he applied them in court. He was revered even after his death by several Chinese provinces who compared him to the war god Guan Yu for their similar sense of righteousness.

Despite the titles he held and his popularity, Bao wasn't always divinized by the public. He was born to a middle class family in the year of 999, with his father being a scholar and his grandfather a peasant. He still received proper education and was greatly influenced by Confucius's ideologies on moral authority and his take on the significance of being a principled leader. However, Bao still grew up in the lower working class, meaning he had to see the mistreatment of people who didn't possess high status within the Chinese community. This ultimately resulted in his strong hatred for injustice and his need to right the wrongs caused by the corruption and deceit in high society. He embarked on his journey to become an imperial official at the age of 28, progressing through the examination of the highest level to become a Jinshi (the most distinguished degree an examinee can achieve). Despite his chances for a career as an Imperial Scholar, however, he chose to delay his employment in order to return home and care for his elderly parents. He put off chasing his scholarly aspirations for nearly a decade, looking after his parents instead and attending mourning ceremonies after their passing, which represents their strong filial bond.

Even after his absence, the people still welcomed him formally. The public admired his filial piety and respected his traditional values, leading to his return to the position as magistrate of Tianchang County. It was then when Bao first became known for his fairness as an official. He was promoted several times afterwards until he ended up as the investigating censor in 1044. It was in this position that he became involved in the famous impeachment case concerning a concubine's uncle.

Emperor Renzong had taken multiple concubines during his reign, one of whom was Concubine Zhang, his personal favorite. He had wanted to make her empress and have her rule alongside him, but refrained from doing so due to his mother's protests. Instead, he displayed his favoritism for her in other subtle ways, like raising the status of her uncle, Zhang Yaozuo, from his low-level local position. Bao objected to this, stating that Zhang did not have the talent and merit needed for his standing, and strongly advised the emperor to remove him from his rank. At first, Emperor Renzong paid no heed to his words and kept Zhang in his position. However, Bao did not abandon his protesting, which proved how headstrong he was when it came to fairness. His advice for the emperor eventually convinced him to remove Zhang from his position and strip him of his titles.

Even in the face of those with more authority than him, Bao still spoke up in the name of justice and what he deems right, making him one of the most upright officials in Chinese history. Even when near death, he thought of wanting his offspring possess the same values as him, stating that "he who shares not my values is not my descendant." He never allowed himself to be swayed by the corruption and manipulation around him, choosing to take the righteous path to help the less fortunate.