



Non-fiction

Group 4

New Tales of Judge Pao

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Wong, Man Hei – 15

When I watched a TV program, I saw a man with a black face and with a half-moon on his forehead. He looks brave and mighty. Actually, I don't know who he is. When I first saw him, he was sitting on a chair and trial the case serious which like the lawyer in modern days. A few years later, I saw him on a Chinese History book, now I definitely know that is 'Judge Bao', a famous character in Chinese History. Till now, I still have a strong sense of explore more about of it, so now, let us learn more about 'Judge Bao'!

As I have a little bit know about Judge Pao. However, when I saw some information about him, I get well-known on him. Actually, 'Judge Pao' is also called Bao Zheng. He is born in 5 March, 999 at He Fei and death in the date of 3 July 1062. Some people will also call him as 'Bao Gong'. He is a Chinese politician during the period of reign of Emperor. His journey of being a judge is quite rough. In 1027, he was being the lawyer of the lowest level but his parents is being older and older, Bao didn't did it but to take care his parents first. After that, he was ordered to being a person which responsibility is to call citizen to pay taxes for the Central government. Even if this is a good work for Judge Bao, his parents didn't want their son leave them forever. Until his parents were died, he has built a tiny house which built by straw next to his parents' grave.

After his parents has died, he didn't give up his chance and life, the king at that century ordered his to be the leader of different country. Although Judge Bao was well-behaved and did a great job each day on his work, every time when he was on duty, there is always some unexpected event happened. Even if it can't change the occurrences of that event happen. For example, one time he was on duty in the palace, at the moment he didn't notice, the murder was entering into there and steal something and ran out at once. After the happen of this event, Judge Bao was judge by the citizens, some people think that his heart is toxic like a snake, which means he is not a person of doing good thing. It is one of the hurt in his working life.

However, chance change him. Until the January, 1057 he was on duty in a famous palace there for only about one year. In this short period of time, Judge Bao has done a lot of things that can help or improve the citizens' living condition and quality. The measure that he made makes the society and that environment is more tidy and no more illegal things occur any more. A whole new way of ruling the society was innovated by him. His new rules is to punish the royal when they have do something wrong or doing things without Judge Pao order and he can also punish the citizens appropriately. Due to this case, many citizens praise him as a good king in that century.

Unluckily, he was died in 1062 for age sixty-three and the coffin was sent to He Fei.

His career is being a Judge and to trial some cases in the society every day. His picture to us is very harsh to the other. Actually, when he was trialing the case, he is using the same way to face the cases. His attitude to manage the case and to face the people, even there is the worker partner, he is also using a same way to community with each other.

In his life of trialing with the cases, maybe some of you know that there was three famous cases during his life of being a Judge. Today I will talk about two of them. First, it is the 'A Tales of Two Cities'. The stories is talk about that two soldiers in Tan Zhou is known as not friendly with each other. Due to above condition, so they usually get some things that is not good or horrible every time which makes them very annoying. They didn't want them. Therefore, Judge Bao immediate provided a hand to help them. His aims to help them to get well-known of the things because that will happen. After that, the daughter of two families is eventually married. It led to a good ending because two families were solved their problem which destroying their relationship.

The second one, is the 'Accident of a love'. The story is mentioned about a smart and clever girl which is called Zhou Siu Wen. She gets good result in learning always. She lived in a house where the best friend of Li Ching Po's home. When the time she lives in his home, she falls in love in his wife. But unluckily, the night which his wife is decided to dating with him, His wife is killed by someone.

After seeing what the basic information and the characters of Judge Bao. What do you think of him? Is he brave? or 'Is he smart?' However, anyway, if you have any idea about that, it was quite normal. It is because some of the people or even the author who write the Chinese poem has also a same idea, maybe is same as what you think like! In total, there is mainly six commends to Judge Bao. I will introduce three of them to you in the following.

First, a person called Chu Xi. He thinks Judge Bao is a smart and brave. He said that Judge Bao can rapidly set up a related policy to avoid that kind of event occurs again. Also, Judge Bao is brave to set up a new century. That means people can have a new ruling means to enjoy. Second, that is Au Yang Siu. He said that Judge Bao is get through a poor life, not much attracted by the luxuries and money. He only wants to have a simple life. Also, he is glad to listen or to see what news has been spread and concerned by the citizens. He is work hard on the duty when in the palace. Third, Liu Tang is a person who called Judge Bao is a person who is willing to share more about his life and options. He didn't want to cover all his secret in his heart but to share with others.

After we see what command to Judge Bao, I think all of you reading passage can feel what Judge Bao is good and what we need to learn it. Now, let us talk to you about my opinion to you. I think we should learn him for his brave and smart. We can use them wisely and applicate in our daily life so that we can use these skills to make good communicate with others and develop a great relationship with them. Although Judge Bao's condition is not same as us nowadays, I think these advantages are can be use forever,

The Chinese Sherlock Holmes

Korean International School, Lam, Cheuk Ki – 14

INTRODUCTION

When asked who is the cleanest and most honest official in Chinese history, most of us will say it's **Justice Pao** (Bao Zheng 包拯). Bao Zheng is one of the most remembered officials in the long-established history of China and is honored as the cultural symbol of justice. His uprightness, selflessness, and impartial judgment earned him the nickname "Bao the Clear Sky" (Bao Qingtian 包青天). You can appreciate his popularity among locals by seeing the crowds flocking to Judge Bao's temple in the previous Song's capital Kaifeng, and the stories of him and his cases passing on for thousands of years through popular cultures, such as novels, stage dramas and TV shows.

ALL ABOUT JUDGE BAO

Judge Bao has become a legendary figure thanks to the myths fed by abundant folklore and detective stories. A distinct image is dedicated to him in most traditional plays and modern drama series. He is often portrayed with a black face and a white crescent-shaped birthmark on his forehead. According to the legend, Bao Zheng is upright and majestic. He needs to handle cases in the real world during the daytime and presides over the lawsuits in the underworld at night. The crescent mark on his forehead thus serves as a permit across the boundary. Apparently, our culture has over-deified Bao, so what does judge Bao actually like?

FILIAL PIETY FIRST

Bao Zheng, in reality, was neither black-faced nor had an extraordinary life experience; he was a Chinese politician in China's Song dynasty. Bao was born into a scholar family in Anhui, and his birth was a gift for the family since both of Bao's brothers died immaturely.

As the only son in the family, Bao Zheng studied diligently as a youth. Ultimately, he passed the imperial civil service examination at 29 and was soon offered a government job as a county magistrate. However, his aged parents were in poor health then, and Bao Zheng decided to put filial piety first. He resigned from the prestigious position and cared for his parents for nearly a decade until they both passed away; he was thus highly appreciated by later scholars, including Sima Guang, for this virtue.

CLEAN AND HONEST

Bao Zheng returned to the government and was promoted to the prefect of Duanzhou. Duanzhou is famous for high-quality inkstones, which were presented annually to the imperial court. Bao found that local officials demanded inkstones dozens more than the required tribute to bribe influential ministers. Bao thought this had invisibly increased the burden on local people and broke this unspoken rule by ordering the manufacturers to fill the required quota only. This incident caused an uproar in the local area. After the expiry of Bao's three years official period, he really returned without an inkstone. The words "clean and honest" have been with Bao Zheng all his life ever since.

TROUBLE MAKER – IMPERIAL CENSOR

This incident impressed the Emperor, who appointed Bao as an imperial censor in the capital, responsible for supervising all officials; this undoubtedly gave Bao Zheng a platform to criticize domestic and foreign affairs. During his duty in the Central government, Bao wrote scores of memorandums to the Emperor, criticizing his mistakes and impeaching more than 60 officials for incompetence and corruption, some of whom had ties to the imperial family. Bao is renowned for the impeachment of Zhang Yaozuo. Zhang was the uncle of the Emperor's beloved concubine; despite his mediocrity and incompetence, he was promoted to the commissioner of palace attendant, and Bao impeached him. The Emperor, however, insisted on promoting Zhang, which aroused public anger, and seven ministers, including Bao Zheng, even confronted the Emperor face to face. When Bao stated his reasons for opposing, his voice was so loud and agitated that spit splattered the Emperor's face. Forced by the power of his ministers, the Emperor had to give up and agreed that relatives of the empress and concubines should not serve in the government. This rule played a significant role in avoiding the recurrence of historical tragedies

similar to the dictatorship of foreign relatives in the Han and Tang Dynasties and the chaos of the government. Bao was never demoted or otherwise punished for offering the Emperor his opinion too candidly, which was rare in the ancient Chinese political culture, as the Emperor knew he was a "loyal minister".

THE RISE OF JUSTICE BAO

In 1056, Bao was appointed the magistrate of Kaifeng. Despite his less than two years of duty there, he finally stepped into the stage, where his familiar demigod image and legendary stories in popular culture were based. However, neither a skilled bodyguard Zhan Zhao (展昭) and four righteous and incorruptible enforcers, nor an intelligent advisor Gongsun Ce (公孙策), accompanies him to solve convoluted murder plots and palace intrigues. Those legendary sets of guillotines, given to him by the Emperor to execute criminals, were even far from visible.

PIONEER OF POLITICAL REFORM

If you have to find some "fame" for him in Kaifeng, there are mainly two remarkable things. Once, the Huimin River of Kaifeng flooded repeatedly; Bao's investigation revealed that the cause stemmed from the numerous gardens and pavilions illegally built over the river by powerful families that blocked the water from flowing freely. Bao ordered that they be demolished, and once he eliminated the "human trouble", the flood receded. Apart from this, Bao also turned Kaifeng into an orderly place by implementing several reforms. Traditionally, a plaintiff had to prepare a written claim; Bao allowed people to directly make oral complaints to the court. In this way, poorly educated people could avoid injustices by officials manipulating the facts in the paperwork. This new approach ensured any severe complaint would be dealt with fairly and impartially by Judge Bao and won the reputation of "Iron-faced Judge".

THE MODEST OFFICIAL

Bao Zheng's main political achievements were not in Kaifeng Mansion nor his wise judgments but in his promotion to the minister of finance one year later. Through economic and financial reforms, Bao Zheng has done an excellent thing for the country's people – changing the tax system and effectively reducing the burden on the people. Bao Zheng died of illness in 1062. The people in the capital were all sad. Despite his high rank in the government, Bao led a modest life like a commoner. When the Emperor went to Bao's house to express condolences, he couldn't help crying when he saw that Bao's house was bare and his clothes, utensils, and food were still the same as when he was not an official.

WHY IS BAO ZHENG JUSTICE INCARNATE?

While Bao was a politician and reformer during the Song Dynasty, which is at most as significant as other famous Chinese politicians in Chinese history, why are only his stories fantastically embellished? Why only is he worshiped as God by many locals?

Firstly, the Confucian school of thought was revived and highly valued during the Song Dynasty. The emperors favored the concept of "ruling the state with local scholars", especially in the Renzong era when Bao Zheng worked for the government. It turns out that it is only during this period when the spirit of scholar-bureaucrats is highly appreciated that the system could contain the "trouble-making" Bao. Bao has been promoted 26 times during his 27 years of official life. Under the practice of promotion every three years in the Chinese government system, Bao is a miracle. History then chose Bao Zheng, an official with humanism, fame and popularity. After his death, some excellent deeds of many other officials were credited to him, and Bao's name became synonymous with the idealized "honest and upright official" (Qingquan).

Secondly, operas and story-based novels have become very popular in the Song Dynasty. Judge Bao's adventures became the first storytelling choice, with more and more fabricated and fictional elements pumped in, and formed part of a popular genre of Chinese detective fiction that preceded Sherlock Holmes by several centuries. After the fall of the Song Dynasty, operas of the Yuan Dynasty and novels of the Ming and Qing Dynasties all needed creative materials like Judge Bao. The old Bao Zheng was then constantly innovating. A literary Bao Zheng became increasingly familiar, while a historical Bao Zheng became increasingly diluted.

Thirdly, since the Song and Yuan Dynasties, folk literature has given rise to the "culture of Qingquan". The commoners, especially the lower class, desperately wanted their grievances settled. Bao's stern appearance, hatred of bureaucrats' corruption and waste, and willingness to challenge the powerful and champion the poor fit the cultural archetype of the "qing Quan", making the Chinese cling to the mode of thought that Judge Bao will save the world. "Everyone has Baoqingtiang in their mind" (人人頭上有青天) has become the desire and motto of Chinese people. No one cares about who Bao Zheng is, but it is the justice and fairness he symbolizes that matters to everyone.

MY FAVORITE STORY OF JUDGE BAO

As our most-liked Judge Bao was gaining popularity since the Song dynasty, he has inevitably become the first and the most famous protagonist in various Chinese literary and dramatic mediums. His stories and cases, almost all made up, were retold and preserved in performance arts, such as Chinese opera in the Yuan Dynasty and vernacular fiction in the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

One of the most well-known is "Chen Shi Mei's Beheading Case". Chen Shi Mei was a poor scholar and was married to Qin, who cared for him, his parents and two children. Chen left them behind in his hometown for the imperial examination in the capital. After placing first, he lied about his marriage and became the Emperor's new brother-in-law. Years later, famine forced Qin and her children to look for Chen in the capital, where they learned what had happened to him. Aware that his position was in danger and that he had lied to the Emperor to marry the princess, Chen not only claimed not to know Qin and their children but secretly ordered his bodyguard to murder them. But the bodyguard helped the family escape and committed suicide. Desperate, Qin brought her case to Bao Zheng, who convicted Chen of attempted murder and for lying to the Emperor, the punishment for which was death. The imperial family intervened with threats and issued an edict pardoning Chen. Bao executed Chen nonetheless despite the penalty for defying an imperial order was also death.

So impressive! In the story, Bao simultaneously serves as a detective, prosecutor, judge, and jury. He even risks his life to do justice and handle grievances for commoners. It would not be possible to find someone like Bao in the world nowadays, even in democratic countries, not to say China, a socialist country, in which individual rights or legal due process is still far from making the requests to Judge Bao obsolete.

THE EVERLASTING JUDGE BAO

The lasting impact of Judge Bao can even be seen in 21st-century modern China. In the 1990s, several TV drama series about his sleuthing exploits became wildly popular in mainland China, Hong Kong, and the South East Asia countries. It set off a wave of the "Bao Qingtian craze" in 1993 that the two Hong Kong TV stations broadcast the Judge Bao drama simultaneously and competing for ratings, making significant repercussions that year. Interestingly, this craze coincided with when political corruption was of grave concern since China's economic reform in 1978. Its popularity had only waned after a far-reaching anti-corruption campaign began in 2012. During that era, you could find people stuffing allegations of corruption into the donation box in front of the Bao Judge's status in the Kaifeng Bao Temple. They knew Bao had died a thousand years ago, but they sent the letters anyway out of desperation. Some citizens who were not satisfied with local officials might even take their cases all the way to the capital, Beijing, and live for decades in Beijing's "petitioners' village", searching for an impartial Judge Bao-like figure who would hear their cases.

It's therefore surprising to find that a man who lived a thousand years ago with most of his stories based on literary versions could have such an impact and serve as surveillance in the modern Chinese political system.

Although real Judge Bao is not as legendary as he has appeared in the storytelling, novels and TV shows, he is undoubtedly one of the most disciplined, upright and impartial officials in China's history. He once set a family rule: "Among my children who serve in government, if any breaks the law or becomes corrupt, he shall not return to our hometown, nor shall he be buried in the family cemetery. I will disown those who do not heed these words." His virtue is highly appreciated among the Chinese, which is why he is commemorated in Chinese history and has become a model of "Qingquan" in China.

When I was young, the grown-ups often told me many intriguing stories about Judge Bao. I thought he was terrific, even better than the superheroes in the Marvel stories. Besides investing in cases and arresting bad people, he could also judge them and sentence convicted criminals. As I grow older, realizing most of the stories are made up, I admire him in another way. Bao is the heir to the school of thought of traditional Chinese populism, 'minben sixiang 民本思想', which held that, as Bao wrote in a memorandum, "the people are the roots of the state." It also held that rulers shouldn't constrict people's livelihoods or persecute them for speaking their minds. His thought was very advanced in the traditional Chinese monarchy society. I appreciated his willingness to advocate for the poor and weak. When people are oppressed and not fairly treated, Judge Bao, who upholds justice, is the last straw people can grasp, helping them to struggle through hardship.

I always like the Chinese proverb "舉頭三尺有神明" meaning the Gods are watching from above. It's a motto warning us not to do something bad. But what if we get lost or seduced? So we need Justice Bao, who serves as a role model to remind us anywhere, anytime, whether it's from screens or bedtime stories.

Maybe we long for a clean, fair society so much; maybe we always have a fantasy of someone who can stand by us when we face something unfair, which makes Judge Bao, like Batman in the West, irreplaceable in our hearts. I hope, one day, people can visit Judge Bao temple in Kaifeng out of simple respect rather than making a desperate plea for help.

Biography of Judge Pao

Korean International School, Li, Sui Ying Athena – 17

Early life

Judge Pao was born on the 5th of March, 999 in Shenxian, Hefei, Luzhou, now known as Feidong County. His given name was Bao Zheng, but he is most commonly known as Bao Gong, which translates to Lord Bao. His father, Bao Lingyi was an intellect and an official, his grandfather, Bao Shi Tong was a commoner. The family was in the middle class and could afford to send Bao Zheng to school, but his mother had to climb mountains in order to collect firewood before going into labour.

Bao Zheng grew up surrounded by low income families, because of this, he could appreciate their suffering, detested corruption and longed for justice. When he was 29, Bao Zheng sat the final Imperial Examination and got certified as a Jinshi. Bao was assigned the role of magistrate of Jianchang County, but put off starting his formal duties for 10 years, wanting to look after his ageing mother and father and oversee conventional grief rituals following their passing. In this time, Bao Zheng was frequently visited by Liu Yun, Magistrate of Luzhou, who was known as an exceptionally expressive and just officer. As a result of their rapport, Bao Zheng learnt the value of love for people.

As Magistrate of Tianchang

After the death of his parents, Bao Zheng was chosen to be Magistrate of Tianchang County, close to where he was raised. This was where he originally acclaimed his reputation as an intelligent judge. One example of this was when a man proclaimed that his ox's tongue had been chopped off. Bao told him to go back home and kill the ox to sell. Shortly afterwards, a second man approached and accused the first man of murdering his ox in private, a crime punishable by imprisonment. "Why did you cut his ox's tongue and accuse him?", Bao thundered. Unable to react, the man had to admit it was him who cut the tongue of the first man's ox.

As prefect of Duanzhou

Bao Zheng was promoted to prefect of Duanzhou at the age of 41. Duanzhou is a district well known for its premium condition inkstones, a portion of which were presented to the imperial court once a year. However, Bao found out that past prefects had taken significantly more than the required amount in order to corrupt powerful ministers with the spares. Bao put an end to this by telling producers to only hand out the required amount. He left the following year empty handed, disappointed with the attitude of the staff there.

As investigating censor

Bao Zheng went back to the capital where he was dubbed an investigating censor in 1044. Over the course of two years working this job, he submitted at least 13 documents to Emperor Renzong of the Song dynasty on subjects, such as the examination system, governmental dishonesty and incompetence. In the following year, Bao was sent to the Liao Dynasty as a messenger where a Liao official accused the Song Dynasty of invading privacy by creating a secret passageway in the border district of Xiongzhou in an attempt to obtain traitors from Liao for intelligence. "Why is a side-door required for intelligence?" snapped Bao, leaving the Liao official speechless.

In the successive years, Bao worked as:

- Financial advisor to the government of Hebei
- Vice Director of ministry of Justice
- Supplement teacher in the Academy of Scholarly Worthies
- Vice Commissioner of Ministry of Revenue

Impeaching Zhang Yaozuo

Zhang Yaozuo was the uncle of Emperor Renzong's favourite associate. He quickly rose in the ranks of positions, from being an officer to being the state finance commissioner. On July 12, 1050, Bao and two other censors presented a memorandum, condemning Zhang of performing tasks without emotion and without any remorse, going to the extent of accusing him of causing natural disasters. However, much to Bao's disappointment, Zhang kept his job and his sister was awarded with a title four days later. Bao remained determined to incriminate Zhang and wrote another memorandum independently, stating his views on Zhang's actions.

Amid the pressure from Bao and other censors, Zhang was demoted from the state finance commissioner to a concurrent four commissioner position: commissioner of palace attendant, missionary commissioner of Huainan, Qunmu military missioner in chief and commissioner of Jingling palace. This prompted Bao Zheng to write another letter, speaking his mind and requesting the emperor to remove Zhang Yaozuo. This led to a discussion held to validate these points, resulting in a dispute headed by Bao and six other ministers. This caused the titles of commissioner of palace attendant and commissioner of Jingling palace to be stripped from Zhang Yaozuo's name. In the course of his government services, Bao Zheng had 30 high officials either demoted or dismissed for corruption, bribery or refusing to perform duties.

As prefect of Kaifeng

In 1057, Bao became the magistrate of the capital city of Kaifeng, previously known as Bian. Although he kept the title for only a year, he started several adjustments of administration relationships, such as allowing the general public to file complaints directly to the city liaison officers, thereby avoiding the city municipals who were allegedly corrupted and under the influence of local tycoons. Although Bao was widely celebrated for his reforms, his work after the magistrate of Kaifeng was debatable. For example, when Bao terminated Zhang Fangping and was put in charge of the offices that were previously under his title, Ouyang Xiu filed a complaint against Bao. Bao was also the minister of finance. In spite of his high rank in the government, Bao lived a humble life, similar to those below him.

Aside from his unwillingness to accept injustice and corruption, Bao also was famous for his respect towards his parents, elders and ancestors as well as his strict attitude towards corruption. In his lifetime, Bao was nicknamed "Iron-Faced Judge" and it was claimed that his smile was "rarer than clear waters in the Yellow River". Thanks to his distinction, Bao's name became closely associated with the glamorised "honest and upright official" and quickly became a slang used in early theatre productions, plays and stories. Bao was also connected with the god Yama and the "infernal Bureaucracy" of the Eastern Marchmount because of his generally assumed ability to judge incidents in the afterlife to the same degree that he judged them in the world of the living.

Family

Bao Zheng had two wives: Lady Zhang and Lady Dong. Bao had one son and two daughters with Lady Dong. His only son, Bao Yi, died at the young age of 20 during his service as a government officer, two years after marrying Lady Cui. Bao Yi's son, Bao Wenfu died unexpectedly at the age of 5. However, when a young maid, Lady Sun in Bao Zheng's family became pregnant, Bao Zheng sent her back to her hometown. Bao Yi's wife, Lady Cui knew that the maid was pregnant with her deceased husband's father, so she continued to send money and clothing to her home. Immediately after the birth of Lady Sun's son named Bao Yan, Lady Cui secretly brought him to her house to foster him.

The following year, she reunited him with his biological father, stopping Bao Zheng's family line from going extinct. Bao Zheng and his wife were delighted and renamed their new son Bao Shou. Lady Cui was commended for her loyalty to the protection of the family line. This story played a significant part in the formation of the myth that Bao Zheng was raised by his elder sister in law, whom he called "sister-in-law mother".

Death

Bao died in the capital city of Kaifeng in Henan province at the age of 63. It was recorded that before he died 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 be buried in the family's burial site. He who shares not my values is not my descendant."

Bao was buried in Daxingji one year after his death. His tomb was reconstructed three years later by officials of the Huaxi Road. His wife died two years after in 1068 and was laid to rest next to him.

Remains

During the Cultural Revolution, the Baogong Temple in Baohe Park was raided and the Bao Zheng statue was destroyed. The Bao Zheng portraits maintained by his descendants and the Baoshi lineage were burned. The appropriate people organised a relic rescue effort "Bao Cemetery Clearing and Excavation Leading Group" to dig out and clean up the cemetery. They dug up Bao Zheng's corpse and two newly discovered gravestones engraved with Chinese characters. It was noted that the gravestones Bao Zheng and Lady Dong were dislodged because of demolition. In addition, both his sons and their wives were dug up as well as his grandson, Bao Yongnian, were dug up and sanitised. The excavation team returned the corpses of Bao Zheng and his family to their descendants.

One day in August 1973, the carcasses of Bao Zheng and his family were carried out in 11 wooden coffin boxes and transported to Dabaoxun, the hometown of Bao Zheng. However, the local director of administrative affairs there forbade their ancestors' carcasses to be buried on the grounds, otherwise they would be demolished immediately. Bao Zheng's descendents, frightened that the carcasses of Bao Zheng and his family would be demolished, with the assistance of a 34th generation descendant, Bao Zunyuan, secretly hid them elsewhere without knowing what to do with them. The remains, consisting of Bao Zheng's bone fragments, would be later sent to Beijing for forensics research before they were returned to the newly reconstructed cemetery next to the Baogong temple. The cemetery was completed in 1987 to preserve the remains of Bao Zheng and artefacts from the previous tombs. The exact location of the final resting place of Bao Zheng and his family remains a mystery to anyone outside his line of descent.

Legends

Bao Zheng's stories were retold and preserved mostly in the form of theatre performances, such as Chinese opera and the traditional Chinese performing art of storytelling. Written versions of his story appeared in the format of classical Chinese poetry. Colloquial versions were popular in the Ming and Qing dynasties. A common protagonist in Chinese government crime fiction, Judge Pao stories are about Bao, a magistrate investigating and solving criminal cases.

The Legacy of Bao Zheng

Pui Kiu College, Lam, Yee Ting Keira – 16

Justice Pao remains to be one of the most significant and memorable pieces of literature and performing arts in traditional Chinese crime fiction, transcending generations and the passage of time. The main character Judge Pao, a prominent icon of justice, has graced mainstream television for decades on end and captivated the hearts of all those that came to watch him. However, most people seem to see Judge Pao as only a fictional character and not as who he really is—Bao Zheng, a person that at one point truly existed.

Bao Zheng was born during the reign of Emperor Renzong in China's Song Dynasty, in Hefei, Anhui, China and lived as a politician, fulfilling 25 years of civil service. In his numerous years of service, he rose to fame and was given the honorable title 'Justice Bao' owing to his aptitude for defending commoners against situations of injustice and corruption.

Bao was raised among the low to middle working class by parents who were commoners and though his family was affluent enough to be able to send him to school, he never took this opportunity to learn for granted and well understood people's hardships, detested corruption and had a strong desire for justice due to his humble upbringing. Bao excelled in school and was particularly inspired by Confucian ideas of benevolent governance and stories of virtuous officials in history. At only 29 years young, he passed the highest-level imperial examination which took place only once every three years, and became qualified as a Jinshi, equivalent to a Doctor of Literature degree in modern terms. But as his parents had struggles maintaining their livelihood and were becoming frail with age at the time, he set his personal ambitions aside and put his career on halt to tend to them. He cared for his parents in that way for a decade until they passed, by the time he resumed his official career once more, he was already in his late thirties. Fortunately, the pause in his career did not cause any issues for his future as a traditional moral value well respected by people in China is filial piety. So, Bao was accepted into the government and appointed as magistrate of Tianchang County not far from his hometown. It was from this point on that Bao began to establish his reputation as a just judge, impeaching corrupt officials and reprimanding powerful imperial families severely without fear.

In 1040, Bao Zheng received a promotion and became the prefect of Duanzhou which is modern Zhaoqing in the Southern part of China. Duanzhou was a prefecture well-known for its high-quality inkstones of which the imperial court was presented a few every year. During Bao's time as prefect, he found out that previous governors had collected several dozens of times more inkstones from manufacturers than the required tribute. Many of these officials made a fortune by receiving more inkstones from the craftsmen and giving only a portion to the court as tribute, keeping the remains for personal gains. As the governor, Bao requested manufacturers to fill only the required quota to be given as tribute and abolished the common practice of previous prefects in its entirety. By the time his incumbency ended in 1043, Bao left without having a single inkstone in his possession and even left behind a poem as a direct reminder to future governors to do the same.

Bao returned to the capital not long after and was named an investigating censor the year later. During his two years with this position, Bao submitted a minimum of 13 memoranda to Emperor Renzong on taxation, military, incompetence, governmental dishonesty, and the examination system. In the following years, he held many other high-level government posts, from Vice Minister of Finance, Vice Minister of Defence to Governor of the capital city of Kaifeng. Once Bao became Prefect of Kaifeng, he played a major role in initiating reforms in which the grievances of ordinary people were able to be listened to by government officials. Since these reforms were put in place, the people gave Bao the title of Bao Qingtian, which signifies a person who brings justice to the populace. Concubine Zhang, who was even set to become empress if it was not for the opposition of the Emperor's mother, had always been Emperor Renzong's favorite consort. The concubine's family soared in social status and went from minor local posts to high office, being promoted to major posts including the state finance commissioner. Bao protested against these unfair actions of blatant bias and presented a memorandum with other censors and accused the concubine's family of mediocrity and shamelessness. The voice of Bao's strong objection was heard and Emperor Renzong had no choice but to relieve the consort's kin of the high positions. During his years working in the government, Bao impeached 30

high officials for bribery, corruption or negligence of duty. Bao steadily grew in popularity as word of his actions to bring about a just society free from corruption began to spread nationwide.

In particular, Bao became a household figure of justice due to his courage in exposing anyone who did immoral things, and this rule was applied to all people without exception regardless of their social status, including Emperor Renzong. At one point in time, the land was frequented by floods, and when the waters subsided eventually, the emperor felt indebted to the Gods and felt that it was only appropriate to express his gratitude by putting forth a blanket amnesty to all criminals and giving promotions to all civil and military officials. Bao spoke his mind and raised his disapproval of the plan. He informed Emperor Renzong of the importance of justice and meritocracy and that they were too vital to be pushed aside in this retrospect. Crimes committed must be met with punishment while the only way to move upwards in terms of government status should be rewarded to those who show actions of excellence. In the end, the Emperor concluded that Bao was right and withdrew his original plans. Even though it was uncommon then for one's thoughts and opinions to be expressed in such a blatant way, Bao was still able to succeed in spite of his contradictory behavior to cultural standards.

Throughout his time as a judge, Bao adjudicated court cases with integrity, sternness in law enforcement and impartiality. Even those with little education were permitted to voice out their complaints without filling in paperwork. By doing so, all citizens were given the opportunity to prevent injustices brought upon them by officials who would offer to represent them at an unreasonably high cost. In the latter years of Bao's life and also after his passing, his legend was fortified by countless folk tales and detective stories, which was further dramatized by novels, movies and TV dramas as he was perceived to be a person of demigod status. Till this day, Judge Bao is admired and remembered as a person for steadfastly upholding the virtues he subscribed to.

Judge Pao – – the model of modern city

Pui Kiu College, Lee, Ying On – 16

Have you ever watched TV series about Pao, what figure does he give you? Fierce? Terrifying? Or justice? Although judge Pao might be shaped into a legendary figure, in reality, he does perform an authentic figure of justice.

In the legend, Pao has a curved shaped moon on his forehead which symbolises justice as glares from the bright white moon always shine every corner of our earth, implying that everything is opened, transparent with nothing left behind. Meanwhile his dark colored face symbolises his decisive making. So, he is honored as the cultural symbol of justice in Chinese society.

Pao was a Chinese politician during the reign of Emperor Renzong's in China's Song Dyansty During his twenty-five years in civil service, Bao consistently demonstrated extreme honesty and uprightness, with actions such as sentencing his own uncle, impeaching an uncle of Emperor Renzong's favourite concubine and punishing powerful families.

His appointment from 1057 to 1058 as the prefect of Song's capital KaiFeng, where he initiated a number of changes to better hear the grievances of the people, made him a legendary figure. He also gained the honorific title Justice Pao due to his ability to defend peasants and commoners against corruption or injustice.

All in all, no matter what level does the person belong to, whenever the person did wrong, justice will be done. Judge Pao used the method of "execute and then judge", which in turn leave no space for offenders

In addition to his strict judges, Pao also demonstrated his uprightness once he became a officer. In the history, Xuizhou is a well known place which famous and precious inkstone are sold, and paying tribute to officials has already been a prevalent trend. However, after Pao became the controller of Xuizhou, he imposed restriction on amount of tributes, not more than used to be. If tributes are more than accepted, violators will be punished heavily with no doubt.

Moreover, there was also a new tale about judge Pao. Long long time ago, Pao had a good friend called Wu, who learned and have imperial examination with Pao. Wu was well known for his smartness and he became a prefect of Kaifeng. Same as Pao, Wu was a upright person, he refused tributes and enticements no matter from the general consensus, or from the court whom political status may even be higher than Wu. At one time, Wu has a severe fever, a doctor then gave him a round yellowish colored fruit which is said to be the Elixir of life. But, in return, Wu need to use his popularity to advertise this doctor all around the community. Under this emergency situation, Wu agreed since other medicine cant cure him, meanwhile this yellowish fruit became his limelight. However, this was a trap from an officer from another political party who want to be in Wu's position.

As a result, Wu was arrested, since he commits corruption, which is a severe issue in Kaifeng. Coincidentally, the person who was responsible to judge Wu was Pao. Indeed, Pao was very ashamed with his friend, and he was very unhappy as once sentenced, the death penalty will be imposed. At this moment, many officers and friends urge Pao to let go of his good friend, Wu. But owing to justice, Pao refused, he said, "although we are good friend since we are young, although there are many memorable things among us, although Wu helped me a lot, I still can't cover one of my eye to decide things, as I am the judge now, I must judge things base on the law, so as to perform uprightness and fairness. Therefore, te is no choice. Death penalty is confirmed." and Pao hits the drum.

From this story, Pao fame and acceptance spread all over the dynasty. Since then, Pao had strengthen his persistence in judging things in a suitable way and always remind himself not to forget the "red line".

As a consequence, the spirit of Pao is has hand down from generation to generation.

It is known that Pao's is an appreciable judge, but have you realised that his influence has not yet immersed deep in our society? There are terms called the separation of power, implying that Judiciary is independent, not affected by external factors. But why there is still unfairness in society for instance racism? Besides, even for developed countries, judges are sometimes not in state of political neutrality. Such as in the supreme Court of the United States, political parties are actually competing in terms of political reasons, which in turn affects fairness and legitimacy. And is this what we want?

In conclusion, Pao is a judge who demonstrated extreme honesty and uprightness under any circumstances. He also acts a model of the modern society. Most importantly, is his spirit of uprightness.

The New Tales of Modern Justice Bao

Pui Kiu College, Shum, Ching Long – 16

Introduction

The desire to Justice of us human beings are long-lasting. From monarchy to one-party-dictatorship, from China to western, its undeniable that we have long history of legal system and sense of justice. It is no difference when it comes to Hong Kong. As a city with high-standard legal transparency and well-developed legal system (left from Britain), it is of utmost importance that we keep our competitive edge and endeavor to compare ourselves with our counterparts.

Justice Pao has an image of good and with clean hands, he will not receive interest from the defendants in order to give him/her a minimal sentence, as well as not delivering a harsh sentence to the defendant if the plaintiff provides sufficient interest. All his sentence are in accordance to law and therefore people consider him as a good judge.

What if Justice Pao is still alive and he could help us trial some of the controversy cases? Will his judgement be different or indifferent from the modern judge. What methodology of trial and questioning will he use during trial and what sentence will he deliver to the defendant upon convicted?

The Jiang Guo Qing Case

Jiang Guo Qing is a Taiwanese defendant who was accused with murder and rape of a 5-year-old girl, he was sentenced to death in the 90s and eventually executed after a short period of time. The defense council of Mr. Jiang has point out there is a severe lack of evidence and there are unclear parts in the case. Also, he points out that the prosecution has been using illegal and violent methods to obtain evidence and force Mr. Jiang to plead guilty. Depict this, the judge still delivers the death sentence (which is the most severe sentence) to Mr. Jiang. This case was eventually overturned by the Taiwan government in 2003 and Jiang's family received millions of dollars as monetary compensation, but sadly, their dead son couldn't be brought back to alive.

We have eventually asked Justice Pao to trial this case again, and this is how he do it.

First, Mr. Pao visited the location in which the incident happens. He conducted diligent search and see if there are any possible evidence such as blood and fingerprints on weapons in order to primarily determine the nature of the case. He soon decided that the case is a murder case as he eventually saw blood on the floor and a weapon next to it. After having such observation, Justice Pao immediately asked the police officer to bring the blood he found to lab and figure out whether it is the blood of the victim. This is definitely a modern way to do it as people in the past could only use an old an in-scientific way to check. They will put the two blood samples into a bowl of water, if the two blood eventually joins, then it was considered as the blood from same family/person. This seemingly doesn't have a scientific proof; therefore, Justice Bao could make a more accurate judgement.

Afterwards, Justice Pao will obtain the DNA from the weapon in order to check whether the DNA on weapon matches with the one of the accused. He would probably find out they doesn't match and free the defendant. This cases was solved easily by Justice Pao if he participate in the evidence searching part which is now the duty of police and prosecution. This may be contradictory with the law in some countries and consider it as *ultra vires*. The above way may not be an effective way in solving this problem in some country, but it is definitely the fastest way to free Mr. Jiang without having him being viewed as a "rapist and murderer" for too long.

The trajectory of the story may develop as follows if Justice Pao has a limited power and could only act as a Judge.

Now all the evidence has been brought in front of Justice Pao and that Justice Pao would have to host the trial. The prosecution has submitted the evidence of Mr. Jiang pleading guilty during a recorded interview conducted in an police station. Justice Pao does not immediately accept the evidences, in fact he asked whether the defense agree with the accuracies of the evidence. The defense council immediately argues that the evidences is obtained illegally as there are excessive torture faced by Mr.Jiang , such as deprivation of sleep and long lasting police questioning without access to food and water. Therefore Mr. Jiang was unable to comprehensively analyze the situation he is facing and therefore may just said what the officers wanted him to in order to quickly end the torment.

Justice Pao then watched all the video footage on the court and carefully observe the facial expression of Mr.Jiang in order to determine his mental status. He played the footage slowly and also carefully observe every single move and eye contact of Mr.Jiang and the police officer. After watching the footage repeatedly and slowly, he decided that this evidence could not be accepted be accept by the court as the mental state of Jiang is inappropriate for recorded interview by police officer.

The prosecution then present evidence to Justice Pao to prove Mr. Jiang's guiltiness. The prosecution doesn't have much evidence to present as they couldn't obtain sufficient data to proof the case beyond reasonable doubt. There is a possibility that Mr. Jiang is the rapist and murderer but there is definitely still other possibility. Although most Judge under this circumstances will accept evidence from the prosecution and verdict the case, Justice Pao spend time to find "loopholes" for Mr.Jiang in order to find out possible doubt. With the aids of defense council, Justice Pao found that there are a lot of possible murderer as the girl's body was found in an restaurant rather than at the flat of Mr.Jiang. Mr.Jiang was just a customer who was unfortunate enough and caught for the case.

After obtaining and analyzing all the relevant evidence, Justice Pao would verdict that Mr.Jiang is not guilty for the serious charges that he was facing and free him eventually.

Comparing to the unconscious verdict and trial conducted by the original Judge, Mr.Jiang loss his precious young life and all people blame him for the unscrupulous act he was "founded guilty" although he doesn't did it ever in his life. Money could not brought Mr.Jiang back alive. Therefore its of utmost importance that we conduct fair trial and make every evidence counts.

Conclusion

Seemingly, the carefulness and the sense of Justice of Justice Pao is well-incorporated in everyone's heart. Although Mr.Pao's story might just be a myth, or he might have never existed in the world. His charisma and persistence pursue of justice will definitely remains in everyone's heart forever. Law is the cornerstone of a society and therefore we should all strive and protect it, we might not have the ability of Mr.Pao, but as long as we have the desire to justice, we could definitely support these judges to make an accurate judgement without being hindered by the voice in the society.

The Chinese detective in Song Dynasty, The avatar of justice —— Judge Pao

Pui Kiu College, Sze, Man Chi Gigi – 16

Even if you are neither a big fan of detective stories, nor an enthusiast of ancient China history, you must be familiar with the “Iron-Faced Judge”——Judge Pao. His honorability, integrity and incorruptibility are widely acclaimed till today and have wield enormous influence on Chinese civilization. Not surprisingly, such a famous figure has been used to create fictions, movies and television series. Judge Pao is always portrayed with a black face and a white crescent shaped birthmark on his forehead. Under his interrogation, all criminals must not be able to escape from the absolute rights of law, and situations where judge Pao had surrendered are as rare as clear waters in the Yellow River. He is an exemplification of justice, a complimented role model and a cultural symbol of China. However, behind the peace of society under the rule of Judge Pao, were there any cruel adjudgement methods used? Is the portrayed, well-known figure of Judge Pao the same as the real Judge Pao in the history? What if the rule of Judge Pao is applied to Hong Kong nowadays?

First and foremost, it is undeniable that Judge Pao had combated a numerous number of cases, yet, his way of handling the cases might not be as righteous as we have thought. There is once a saying “Don’t judge a book by its cover, even salt looks like sugar”. However, Judge Pao, being subjectively, had actually judged someone to be innocent just by his appearance, which is recorded in the short story collection, *Cases of a Hundred Families Judged by Dragon Design Bao*. In this case, Xu Xianzhong, an 18 years old good-looking man fell in love with a beautiful girl named Xiao Shuyu, who was 17 years old. Shuyu prepared a white cloth for Xianzhong to climb up to her room, so that they can secretly meet each other at night. However, one day, Xianzhong did not come, but a monk came by climbing the tile. The monk intended to rape Shuyu yet failed, he therefore killed Shuyu in order to hide his crime. Afterwards, people suspect Xianzhong for killing Shuyu as they always met each other and Xianzhong was said to be drunk at the time, so people found Judge Pao to solve the case. There was no evidence to prove that Xianzhong was innocent, albeit Judge Pao believed he was not vicious owing to his amiable and genial appearance. This way of judging is only based on Judge Pao’s subjective thoughts, which would be unfair to Shuyu if Xianzhong was the true murderer. Could Judge Pao be praised to be equitable?

Not only Judge Pao was making judgment while turning blind eye to evidence and a trustable truth, but he also forced the suspects to bear the crime through severe punishments. It is admitted that ancient China would use some cruel and draconian ways, for instance, through hitting, burning and starving, to interrogate suspects, nevertheless, this is obviously not a demonstration of justice. Nowadays, people are under the impression that Judge Pao is the symbol of righteous, but should a historical person that force people to confess to false charge under torture be the role model of modern society? The case of black basin, being the most famous deed of Judge Pao, is actually an exemplar of him using lynching to tackle the problem. There was once a rich merchant named Liu Shichang, as his car was broken and there was heavy rain during his way to home, he decided to overnight lodge at Zhao Da, a pottery kiln’s home. However, being greedy, Zhao Da and his wife decided to kill Liu Shichang in order to steal his money. Afterwards, they destroyed the evidence, which was the corpse, by mixing it with clay and making it into a black basin. Then they sold the basin to Zhang Gu, whom Zhao Da owed a debt. What galvanized shock was that Zhang Gu met Liu Shichang’ ghost, possessing the basin, and told Zhang Gu about the murder. Followed by that, the basin was bought to Judge Pao. At first, Zhao Da and his wife did not commit crime, yet, despicable and brutal penalties were used on them, which made them confess what they had done at the end. Previously, the majority of us were just focusing on how mighty Judge Pao was when he successfully pointed out the criminal. However, we all neglected the fact that Judge Pao had ordered his subordinate to hit Zhao Da, the suspect in this case, when he did not admit his crime. Despite the fact that Zhao Da was the guilty, isn’t the way of making him commit a crime be searching for irrefutable evidence? What if Zhao Da was not the criminal? It is fathomable that Judge Pao had his own way to make the fact come to the surface, but it is debatable whether the method he used fulfilled the modern yardstick of justice.

Additionally, unrealistic methods such as ghosts are used for solving cases. For instance, the case of black basin aforementioned involves the testimony from the ghost of Liu Shichang, which sounds unreliable. In some cases, Judge Pao was said to be superstitious and relied on supernatural beings. Again, it is true that ghosts and myths are an imperative part of Chinese culture, yet, it remains questionable whether these should be included in detective stories and case solving, which a reliable fact is pursued. A typical case in point is the case Visiting Hell Mountain. Yan Chasan and Liu Jinchan, the young lady of the rich Liu family, had a marriage before their birth, so Yan Chasan temporarily live in the Liu family's ancestral hall under the arrangement of Liu's mother. Liu Jinchan's cousin, Feng Junheng, was a fraudster and would like to rob the Liu's family, so he intentionally changed into Yan Chasan's appearance. However, he didn't expect the robbery to fail and cause Liu Jinchan to die, which resulted in Yan Chasan being forced to admit that he killed his fiancée. Then Liu Jinchan's maid, Xiaohong, begged Judge Pao for vindication. Judge Pao then used the pillow that allowed people to travel the unrealistic world to go to the underworld to investigate the case in person. Thanks to You Liu Gui, he said that the judge of the Ten Temple was protecting his nephew Feng Junheng and privately changed the life and death book to shorten Yan Chashan's life, and the truth was revealed finally. At first sight, it is nonsense that Judge Pao traveled to hell, and it was more ridiculous when a ghost lent a helping hand to Judge Pao. Televisions, fictions have portrayed Judge Pao to be a symbol of justice, and stemmed the thought that the idealistic society should be what is mentioned in these stories, that there is a mean-spirited person to eliminate the evils and justify the goods. However, Judge Pao may not be as righteous as we usually thought.

You may question whether the cases mentioned are historical facts or imagination of posterity, as some of them are like a castle in the air. In fact, most of the cases of Judge Pao are fictional, even for the famous ones. Moreover, the saying that he was considered cursed and was thrown away by his father was fake as well. His black face and crescent shaped birthmark, which he was well-known for, were actually fabricated too. Furthermore, in most Television series and fiction, Judge Pao used a set of guillotines to execute criminals, including the ones decorated with a dog's head, a tiger's head and a dragon's head, and they were used to execute commoners, officials and royal personages respectively. However, these guillotines were not used for execution in history.

Then what are the deeds of true Judge Pao in history? What made him be able to leave a good name to posterity? To begin with, Judge Pao was appreciated owing to his filial piety. Judge Pao was once appointed as the magistrate of Jianchang Country, which was what the heart of most people lead to. Nonetheless, Judge Pao abnegated this chance as he had to take care of his elderly parents and sincerely work out the mourning rites after they died. Therefore, the first position Judge Pao took was a judge in Tianchang when he was already 39 years old. Even though in modern days, Judge Pao was renowned for his astuteness when solving cases, he was actually more active in being an uncorrupted official by that time. Consequently, the image in which Judge Pao is integrous is true. At that time, Judge Pao was promoted to be the prefect of Duanzhou, but soon he found out that the previous prefects had collected extra inkstones from manufactures than required, which meant that the prefects corrupted and gained benefits from the process. As a result, Judge Pao abolished the practice by telling manufacturers to fill only the required quota. Not only did he stop others from doing so, it was said that when his tenure was up, he did not possess any inkstone as well. This was not the only deed that can illustrate Judge Pao's probity, it is recorded that he had thirty high officials demoted or dismissed for corruption, bribery or dereliction of duty.

Yet, it is absurd if the immense number of cases we know nowadays were all concocted, what stories in modern society have regurgitated the facts? Within an array of famous stories, actually, only The Bull Tongue case is recorded to be solved by Judge Pao. The situation was that a farmer found out that his ox's tongue had been sliced out. Overwhelmed with intimidation, the farmer found Judge Pao. Afterwards, Judge Pao told him to slaughter the ox for sale. Although the farmer was confused, he still did it accordingly. Given that it was illegal to do so in the Song Dynasty, the farmer was reported by a man. Yet, not only Judge Pao did not punish the farmer, but he also bellowed at the man by saying "Why did you cut his ox's tongue and then accuse him?" Judge Pao had realized that the farmer was framed, so he deliberately asked the farmer to violate the law and see who would add insult to injury at that time. Hence, the man could only commit his crime.

Even though most of the legends of Judge Pao were trumped up, Judge Pao is still a historical figure that is worth digging into. In addition, the reason why so many fictions about him were created should also be a spotlight when mentioning him. Owing to his fame and the strength of his reputation, Judge Pao had become an idealistic symbol of an “honest and upright official”. Besides, during the late Southern Song Dynasty, despite the fact that local officials did not have the right to kill, they would repugnantly use heavy shackles on prisoners in order to avoid them from appealing a judicial case. What exacerbated the situation was that the prisoners’ families would be forced to watch the prisoners die under the shackles if they did not pay the bribes to the officials. Unfortunately, this was not the only way to stop people from appealing. Dreary to say, but the local officials would murder the prisoner and his family who tried to appeal. Even if the family members of the prisoner did not appeal, if they did not pay bribes, the prisoner would result in having a desperate living as well. For instance, prisoners would starve to death as the funds used for providing food for prisoners were kept by the officials. In addition, even if the judges knew that the criminal suspect was wronged, the criminal would still be allowed to be tormented to death. Living in such a dark age, people could hardly see a ray of sunlight in a gloomy forest. They were eager for a judge who was uncorrupted, integrous like Judge Pao, which is the reason why many fictions of Judge Pao, with a heroic image, were created. Plays including Rescriptor Bao Cleverly Investigates the Circle of Chalk, Rescriptor Bao Thrice Investigates the Butterfly Dream and Rescriptor Bao Cleverly Executes Court Official Lu were some of the phenomenal examples in the Yuan Dynasty. Moreover, most of the cruel torture tools appeared in the plays, which indicated that the people were so ballistic towards the officials and would like to take revenge on them through the hands of Judge Pao. It is much tragic to say that the people in that era had overcome tyranny, corruption and injustice, and could only vent through fictional dramas.

Aforesaid, Judge Pao has been said to be the role model of justice in society, no matter the past or present, but what would happen if his adjudgement methods were applied to modern Hong Kong? It is believed that much fury will be stirred up in the society and the judicial system in Hong Kong will collapse in no time. To start with, the stem of Hong Kong’s judicial system is fairness, where the suspect remains innocent if there is no evidence to prove that he or she is guilty. However, if Judge Pao were here to judge the cases by the suspect’s appearance, how could the judging result be reliable and convincing? Moreover, if ghosts were said to be involved in solving the case, Judge Pao would definitely be despised by the majority owing to his superstition. On the other hand, lynching is not allowed in Hong Kong, as it is considered as unfair for the suspect to bear the punishment if he or she is innocent. All in all, the thought of giving someone benefit of the doubt has taken root in Hong Kong for decades, Judge Pao’s adjudgement is apparently impossible here.

In addition to the above, Judge Pao’s adjudgement rarely has similarities with the judicial system in Hong Kong. It is because laws have been improving and becoming more consummate with the progress of time. The commonest ideology has changed from ancient China to modern Hong Kong. The history of Hong Kong has made people become less superstitious, and more looking forward to humanity, freedom and fairness. The yardstick of justice has changed throughout nearly a millennium. The paramount advantage of modern Hong Kong’s judicial system when compared to the past is that it would not put a penalty on innocence. Yet, this would also result in allowing people who are guilty to evade from penalty if evidence found is not strong enough. When compared to the past methods used by Judge Pao, the deterrence may be slightly lowered. Even so, I am looking forward to a more complete judicial system in Hong Kong.

To sum up, Judge Pao is a legendary figure in history, his existence is indispensable, no matter in the past or present. Although many of his stories that are known by us have stirred up much controversy, his justice and probity have exerted much influence nowadays, such as triggering our thoughts on the modern judicial system. It is hoped that more of us could appreciate the virtue and spirit of Judge Pao.

Justice Bao – A role model to us

Pui Kiu College, Wong, Hiu Ching – 16

When we talk about amazing detectives, who will cross your mind? Is it Sherlock Holmes? Is it Detective Pikachu? Or is it Detective Conan? They are some quintessential detectives that frequently appear in movies or TV series, which caused them to be so popular among people. Yet do you know, thousands years ago, China already had an astonishing detective and his name is Bao Zheng.

Before we move on to the main topic, let's do a brief introduction on Bao Zheng. Bao Zheng, commonly known as Bao Gong, was a Chinese politician during the reign of Emperor Renzong in China's Song Dynasty. During his twenty-five years in civil service, Bao consistently demonstrated extreme honesty and uprightness, with actions such as sentencing his own uncle, impeaching an uncle of Emperor Renzong's favourite concubine and punishing powerful families. As a result, he had gained the horrific title Justice Bao due to his ability to defend peasants and commoners against corruption or injustice. Bao Zheng today is honored as the cultural symbol of justice in Chinese society. His largely fictionalized [gong'an](#) and [wuxia](#) stories have appeared in a variety of different literary and dramatic mediums, and have enjoyed sustained popularity.

If we talk about Justice Bao, then I'm sure the first thing people mention will be his personalities, which he is extremely famous for. Judge Bao has an array of admirable personalities, such as honesty and uprightness, which I firmly believe can allow us to improve ourselves if we learn from them. To begin with, we can learn from his patience. In the old times, magistrates and imperial officials using torture to force confessions was commonplace. They often neglect whether the suspect is truly guilty and so as a ramification, vast amount of innocent people was wrongly convicted and some may even have to lose their precious lives. Shocking, isn't it? In the modern society, we have a complete lawsuit and also policies, such as presumptions of innocence, to protect the rights of everyone, but the legislation in the ancient times was not as advanced as the one in the modern days. Without the protection of laws, the officials were free to do whatever they wanted to the civilians. Hence while they were handling different cases, most of them would like to make an end to the cases as soon as possible by forcing confessions out of the suspects. However, Bao Zheng was determined to patiently solve cases through investigation in order to prevent people from being falsely accused. From aforementioned, I believe it is already clear that Bao Zheng's patience is surely something we have to learn. The reason for us to learn that is because in the present world, there are a lot of news on the internet, but a multitude of them may be fake or inaccurate. Besides, people like to make conclusions immediately and hurt people verbally. Hence it is essential for us to not jump to the conclusion impulsively. We must be patient and rational and always spend more time on fact checking the news. Words may not be material objects, but they surely can be as sharp as blades. Don't let innocent people get hurt because of our ignorance. Be patient when facing unconcluded events and spend more time on finding the truth.

Next, we can learn from his uprightness. I'm sure most of you have heard of the quote, "equality before the law". It turns out that this is also the principle of Bao Zheng. There was once when one of his uncles broke the law and was sued by the victim in the local court. Normally, people may spare the criminal as they are relatives. However, Bao Zheng believed everyone is equal before the law, so filial piety is never an exception. Thus, Bao Zheng summoned the contemptuous uncle to the court and had him beaten with sticks 100 times as punishment. Bao Zheng had also shown uprightness in the case of executing Chan Shime. A brief summary on this case, Chan Shime betrayed his original wife Qin Xianglian and married a princess after placing first in the examinations. Besides, he even tended to murder Qing Xianglian in order to cover up his past. During the investigation of this case, Bao Zheng was heavily pressurized by the royal family. Back then in the old times, disobeying the royal families may lead to a death sentence. Yet Bao Zheng had no fear towards the royal families and even claimed that he will sentence Chan before his death. The importance of learning Bao Zheng's uprightness is that there will always be moments when we witness wrongdoings by our families or people with authority. We should always bear in mind that no one can be an exception before justice, so we have the responsibility to rectify them.

Last but not least, we can learn from his determination. Bao Zheng had used his whole lifetime to fight corruption. Even after he had passed away, the family rule that he set up claimed that children who corrupt will be disowned. It can't be ignored that being an official comes with a sharp increase on temptations around you, yet Bao Zheng was never captivated throughout his life of being an official. Thus, it is apparent that he has an admirable determination that is worth for us to learn. This kind of determination is actually really beneficial to our daily lives. For example, teenagers like me are usually still students who have to study everyday and I'm sure there are always distractions near us, such as mobile phones and comic books, that make us want to give up half-way. Therefore, it is important to be determined like Bao Zheng in order to fight off those temptations.

To sum up, Justice Bao is definitely a good role model to us. His uprightness, determination and patience are all things we should learn from him. We face different occasions in our daily life. For example, sometimes we may catch our friend cheating on exams. Even though a majority will cover them due to their friendship, the correct way is to report them so that they will recognize their mistakes. Thus, it is essential to learn from Bao Zheng and make a better and respectable person.

Judge Pao: Why is There No Modern–Day Equivalent, and What Does It Mean to Us?

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Judge Pao, alternatively romanized as Justice Bao, is a legendary figure in Chinese history. Known for his detective work in cracking difficult cases, such as the Case of Two Nails, his intellect is revered in Chinese history as one of the most renowned detective minds in history. He is further set apart from his fictional counterparts, such as Sherlock Holmes, by his fearlessness in the face of power. While we often know him as a detective, it is his righteousness and fearlessness, cracking down on corruption and injustice by the nobles, that makes him all the more notable. During his 25-year tenure as a public servant, he was in a situation where making the emperor unhappy could result in a loss of their job or even execution, and some of the nobles he sentenced were indeed very close to the emperor. Many of his contemporaries indeed lost their jobs by virtue of making minor offending statements. Fast forward to current times, and Judge Pao's actions are still unparalleled and far beyond what anyone has done.

One might wonder, among the generations of legal practitioners, there would surely be someone who has been able to accomplish the achievements of Judge Pao, saving the public from injustice by the stronger powers. However, the world has still not seen such a person, and indeed such a powerful figure is unlikely to come in the near future. What does this mean, then, for our society famed for an independent and reliable judicial system?

A naive explanation might be that there are few people who are as righteous as Judge Pao was, seeing justice as lying above the concerns of death. However, there have been figures righteous enough to sacrifice themselves in different fields, including in the royal court, as such the explanation is difficult to justify. A more involved analysis would involve considering two different kinds of societies: the developed democracies and the less-developed world.

In developed countries, the major reason is that there is simply no person powerful and influential enough to be able to both judge and sentence. To put into perspective Judge Pao's power, consider an "evil" version of Judge Pao who, instead of upholding justice, only works for his own benefit. Such a person would be able to "investigate" his opponents based on fabricated evidence, and judge and sentence said opponent, installing a political ally in his place. Evidently, this would be detrimental to the functioning of the government. As such, in order to prevent such an incident, there is no position as powerful as this. Most developed countries adopt the *trias politica* model, where the executive, legislative and judicial powers are separated and have the power to check each other. The power to prosecute lies within the executive branch carrying out laws, while the power to judge lies in the judiciary. There can be righteous judges and intelligent detectives, but in a modern system, they are not the same person.

This separation also implies that modern judges do not face the same level of scrutiny from any form of "emperor". In an imperial system, all three powers originate from the emperor, and the judges such as Judge Pao report to the head of state as well. However, in a modern-day system, the judiciary does not report to anyone. While typically the executive branch, acting as the head of state, appoints judges, once appointed, a judge cannot be easily removed from office at the will of the head of state. A modern-day judge can sentence high-level officials without any fear of repercussions. Consider the case of Park Geun-hye, who was the center of a political scandal that saw her investigated, impeached, convicted, and jailed. Imagine this happening in imperial China: the moment a prosecutor files a motion for investigation of the emperor, he would be undoubtedly and promptly punished. This difference between modern and medieval times is a core reason why modern-day judges differ from Judge Pao.

On the other hand, modern judges face issues that Judge Pao would never have had to face. The most prominent is the rise of the "fourth power" – the public, and the voice of the media, are surely foreign to medieval China. In medieval China, the public is strictly vassals of the state and thus have little say over their government or even their landlords. While judges are no longer under the scrutiny of the executive, they are instead concerned with the public's voice and potential outcries. At different times, there are different "louder parties" whose rights, if violated, would lead to a major response in the media or among its people. For example, in America in the past, it would be about race, as judges are pressured by their race to rule against

African-Americans. Judges are humans as well, and they might succumb to pressure from the ever-more-vocal public.

Another noteworthy reason is that the nature of corruption has changed drastically over time. With the change in government structure, the appeal of gaining power has diminished compared to the appeal of riches. For ancient officials, gaining power meant that they could further extort from more subordinates, often accumulating riches exponentially. Furthermore, being closer to the emperor meant that they would also have more influence over policy-making as well as remove enemies from office, solidifying their power and riches. This encourages corrupt officials to bribe their way up the social ladder. On the other hand, in modern times power does not necessarily correlate with riches, and removing political enemies is less of a priority; furthermore, going up a rung in the political hierarchy does not come with a great increase in power, as the power of the executive is still checked by the legislative and judicial branches. As such, the most common types of collusion nowadays involve officials receiving monetary benefits from corporations, which in turn are granted a more dominant position compared to competitors, for example being granted the rights to a certain major project or even a monopoly. Consider the Rafael Hui corruption case, where the former Chief Secretary for Administration accepted bribes from Sun Hung Kai Properties. Another kind of collusion is between two companies, where one offers money in exchange for dominating the market. Thus, what is at stake here is money and not personal power. The target for investigation would be companies and not officials, and as such, a modern-day Judge Pao would not face the fear of being removed from office; in other words, there is less to fear, and Judge Pao's fearlessness would not be highlighted in the modern world.

To reiterate, Judge Pao's defining qualities are his righteousness, fearlessness, and intelligence in the face of power in investigating, as well as judging, cases that often involve the nobility and social elites. He had to be intelligent to be able to solve difficult cases, righteous in impeaching the corrupt elites, and fearless in dealing with the power of the royalty. In the modern, developed world, there is no emperor wielding power over all his subordinates, and what corrupt officials want is not pure power but money. The political landscape is so different compared to medieval China, and the current landscape does not favor the appearance of a new Judge Pao. Indeed, if there were a new position with powers as extensive as what Judge Pao had, being able to investigate, adjudicate and carry out punishments, then it would be prone to abuse and a net negative for society.

Speaking of the current political landscape, while the current, developed world is the radical opposite of the dictatorship system in ancient China, the "third world" – the underdeveloped parts of the world, where dictators rule vast swathes of land, is a closer match compared to the landscape of medieval China. There, collusion and corruption are rampant, and elections can be rigged to generate a voter "turnout" of 1660%. Yet, with these, there has been no Judge Pao who has stepped up to the occasion. Why is this so?

Time is a possible factor, as many of the independent countries in these parts of the world are very new. However, a more direct reason would be that neither does the political landscape of these countries allow such a Judge Pao to exist.

The key difference between medieval China and these less-developed countries (LDCs) is that medieval China is far richer materially, on a relative scale, than these countries. In medieval China, trade is minimal and there is no "outside world" to speak of. The concept that "the grass is greener on the other side" does not exist, and the emperor can gain everything that they knew of. Whenever delicacies are discovered anywhere, it is the duty of the local officials to send them to the emperor and the capital. Simply speaking, the dictator does not need, or want, more money – On the other hand, the amount of wealth that LDC dictators can amass is still insufficient to satisfy their wants, ranging from rare delicacies to luxury vehicles to hotels. When the dictator is not satisfied, the only natural choice is to join the corruption. As such, the difference can be summarized this way: in medieval China, the emperor turned a blind eye to, or even supported, the corruption among lower officials; in LDCs, the dictators are themselves part of this corruption. This fundamental difference is what makes the job of any judge far more difficult, as will be explained in the following.

The key to Judge Pao's success is the support from the Emperor. As mentioned, Judge Pao escaped punishment that many of his contemporaries suffered from by virtue of making minor statements. Considering how righteous Judge Pao was, it would be expected that he would have received complaints from the nobility, and the emperor would act in favor of his family and remove Judge Pao from office, the fate that many righteous officials in ancient China faced. While Judge Pao's sentences were against the interests of the emperor, they didn't directly contravene the emperor, since the emperor was often not himself the target of investigation. However, in LDCs, the dictators, who are themselves corrupt, would try their best to maintain the situation of

corruption in place so that they can rake in profit and luxuries. As such, any such investigation is bound to be met with halt orders from the government, and any such Judge Pao would be hindered from completing their investigation. Justice can only be served if they are granted the right to do so – in the case of LDC dictatorships, this right can be revoked at any time at wish by the dictator, and there is a higher power – the dictator – obstructing the arteries of society – justice – leading to corruption throughout the government.

The militaristic nature of the governments further intensifies this issue. In many LDCs, the reigning dictator is a former general, or the son of one, and the power stems from the military control that the leader has over his subordinates. The same can be said of many of its subordinates. In this system, it is exceedingly difficult for a judge, which has non-military origins, to join the ranks of such a government. In these countries, the military is often the basis for power. Take Mali, a northern African country that has experienced 2 coup d'états in the past 3 years, as an example. According to Transparency International, Mali is ranked in the lower quartile in the Corruption Perceptions Index, and it is described as having corruption in “all levels of institution” partly due to an ineffective judicial system. Considering its coup history, if even the governing leader of the country cannot protect himself from a military strong enough to overpower himself, then no judge is safe from the power of the military. The nature of corruption is that it involves officials in power, and these officials often possess military means to overpower any verdict that the judge might be able to deliver. If a senior official engages in corruption, no prosecutor will be able to file any complaint, partly because such a complaint will be nipped in the bud before it is made public, and partly because the police force is controlled by the government as well. As such, it is impossible for anyone to be able to check corruption in a country like Mali.

The militia system also renders it easier for dictators to suppress any dissenting voice, removing the influence of the “fourth power”. The dictator is given absolute power, which allows them to exercise varying degrees of control over the people; how much freedom is afforded to the people, and how tight is the grip of the dictator on the people, are determining factors of how effectively a prosecutor, or judge, can check the government. The emperor that Judge Pao served under, Emperor Renzong, was acclaimed as a “good emperor” who had empathy for his people, which is reflected in the word “Ren” of “Renzong”. Under this empathetic emperor, Judge Pao was able to clear up the corruption without being silenced, even pointing out the wrongdoings of the emperor himself at one point. Other officials serving under different emperors who dared to point out the wrongs of their emperor were less lucky, facing punishment ranging from dismissal to exile to execution depending on the emperor. LDC dictators tend to fall into the latter category, as they came to power through military means and as such had to reign with an iron fist in order to keep their citizens in line. As such, rather than being protected like Judge Pao was, any potential prosecutor would likely face dire consequences. The stars have not aligned for these countries to have a figure like Judge Pao.

In order for a figure like Judge Pao to exist, several factors have to favor this at the same time: a political system where a position of such power exists, a government that allows for opposing voices to be heard, and a group of nobles that are open to, or at least under public scrutiny, to fulfill behavioral norms. In modern society, it is difficult and unlikely for all these factors to come together. However, this by itself is not a bad thing. It is simply a reflection that with the rise of the “fourth power” – the public and the media, the structure of society has been altered enough so that we do not need a Judge Pao, for that Judge Pao is embodied in the spirit of the fourth power. Around a millennium ago, Judge Pao monitored the government and checked if there was corruption, impeached corrupt and incapable officials and investigated suspicious cases. As a member of the public, by monitoring the government’s work, submitting our opinions and making ourselves heard in the ballot box, and raising concerns over suspicious behavior in the media, we are serving as the modern-day Judge Pao.



Creative Writing
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Group 4

Judge Pao

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Judge Pao, also known as Bao Zheng, was known fictionally for being the judge in the Song Dynasty. He was selfless, worked with integrity, and dared to appeal grievances for the common people, so he got the name "Bao Qingtian"(which means judge Bao the heavenly arbiter) and "Justice Bao" among the people. There are many legends and plays about judge Bao in the folk, such the one called "Yellow Cabbage Leaves" and "Three Heroes and Five Gallants", which praise judge Bao for his fortitude and justice as the representative of the people. However, in reality, Judge Pao was not only a judge but also the highest leader of the national defense and the highest magistrate of the capital. Despite the difference in position, both the fictional Judge Bao and the real Judge Bao were granted high names. Bao Zheng successively served as a local official in many places. He worked cleanly and honestly, took many measures to reduce the burden on the masses, and did many things conducive to the protection and development of the local economy, which was widely praised not only by the people that benefited from his decisions but also by the litterateurs who admire him.

I summarize these compliments into eight aspects, which I called, "Eight praise Judge Bao".

First praise Judge Bao for his official integrity by not being afraid of the bigwigs in the royal court, putting everyone equally in front of the tribunal, and being incorruptible in front of entices.

When Bao Zheng was governor of Duanzhou (now Zhaoqing City of Guangdong Province), Duanzhou was rich in producing inkstones. The governor of the city before judge Bao takes the advantage of the tribute as an opportunity to peculate wealth by extorting nearly 10 times the amount of inkstone needed for the tribune and pocketing most of them to use these pocketed inkstones for bribery. On the other hand, however, Judge Bao only collected inkstones according to the required amount of tribute and never used this opportunity to seek his own benefits. What is particularly admirable is that Bao Zheng did not take even one inkstone home after his term of office expired, which shows how strict he was to himself and how clean he was as an official.

When Bao Gong was an official in various places, he used to and is not afraid to severely punish the bigwigs who brought harm to the nation. For example, Wang Kui had a close relationship with the Chancellor of the dynasty at that time and was favored by the emperor Zhao Heng. However, these titles didn't shock Judge Bao and he still impeached Wang Kui without any hesitation. Judge Bao also directly impeached Chancellor Song Lu, Prince Shu's son-in-law, the imperial concubine's uncle, and so on.

These dignitaries are very powerful and their private relationships with other powerful officials are very intertwined. Displeasing these people is very likely to directly end Judge Bao's career as an official or even cost his life. Thus it can be seen that Bao Zheng's upright quality is how admirable.

Second, praise Judge Bao's judge with great justice and not consider private affairs when judging.

During the tenure of Lord Bao in Luzhou, his relatives and old friends took advantage of his influence to do some illegal things, which made it very difficult for the county and town officials to handle. Once, the uncle of Bao violated the law and occupied the land of the villagers illegally. Because the county and township were not able to deal with this case, the people complained directly to Judge Bao in Luzhou. Judge Bao felt that this was not an isolated case, nor was it an illegal act committed by his uncle alone, so he had to deal with it seriously and act by the law, so he directly sent his uncle to the court for interrogation. After his uncle was convicted to be guilty, Judge Bao gave his uncle a beating according to the law, ordered him to return the property, and made an apology. The crowd applauded and praised Judge Bao for staying impartial even though Judge Bao have the power to cover up his uncle's crime. They also beat drums and gongs and sent a large plaque with the words "Luyang Righteousness" to the official government.

Judge Bao's action convinced people that he will remain justice all the time no matter what happened. Three praises Judge Bao for daring to rectify the official style and reform the unreasonable rules and regulations.

When Bao Zheng was governor of Kaifeng Prefecture, he opened the main door of the government office, so that the complainants could directly enter the court to submit their pleadings, to avoid the government officials' malpractice, and the trial was as fair and reasonable as possible. He also furthermore reforms the government's retirement system so that anyone above 70 will have to retire to prevent the monopolization of power in the royal court. This also solved the problem of the huge useless bureaucracy of the civil servants. Before, Judge Bao's reformation, the condition of the government was described as having nine shepherds look after ten sheep. After the reformation, this condition was greatly improved.

Fourth praise Judge Bao for appointing people and promoting people based on their merits instead of their birth. Independent of partisan struggles, Bao played an instrumental role in recommending competent people with different political views for important posts. He also denies using those who have good birth but bad morals. Judge Bao pointed out in his book that the officials with good morals and integrity are the true representative of the people and those who are corrupt were only the thieves among the people.

Fifth Praise Judge Bao for his will to strengthen the nation.

Khitan was once the enemy of the Song dynasty, and it is a very big threat to the Song. Furthermore, it is a nomadic tribe and constantly invade the Song dynasty. The emperor of the Song Dynasty decided to pay money to ease the conflict with Khitan. And from that time, every year, Song needs to pay a large amount of money to the Khitan to maintain peace. Some officials, or even most of the officials in the court at that time think that maintaining peace just by paying money was great and there was no reason to change it. However, Judge Bao was different. He proposed that paying money is merely a kind of compromise and the Khitan will become more greedy over time. The best method to maintain peace is not by paying money but to build a strong army to guard the border. This view is very provident and is very rare at his time.

Six Praise Judge Bao for his wise decisions in the tribunal and his sharp sense as a detective

When Bao Zheng was governor of Tian Chang prefecture, a farmer came to the court one day and filed a lawsuit against a scoundrel for cutting off the tongue of his farm cow and asking for the arrest of the criminal. There was no clear clue other than the cow's tongue's been cut off about who the criminal suspect was. When other people feel puzzlement and have no idea what to do, Judge Bao proposed his idea after the analysis: cutting off the cow's tongue is not profitable because the tongue of the cow is worthless on its own. This must be an act of revenge against the victim. Therefore, Judge Bao ordered the victim to kill the cow and sell its meat to lure the criminal (because the Song Dynasty made it illegal to kill cows). Sure enough, the tongue cutter saw the owner of the cow killing the cow and thought it was a chance to revenge. So he went to court to report the owner of the cow killing the cow which exposed himself and revealed the fact that he cut the cow's tongue, which caused him to end up in jail. The suspect was solved. Many stories in the case of Judge Bao, which are widely spread among the people, all reflect that Judge Bao was rigorous in thinking, witty and sensitive when he settled the case.

Seven praises Bao Zheng for helping average people to solve their problems.

When Bao Zheng was in charge of Jingdong transport, he visited all the prefectures, visiting the impoverished iron governance households, and exempting their debt to help increase iron productivity. At the same time, he encourages those who can open the furnace iron governance, to facilitate the development of production.

When Bao Zheng was governor of Kaifeng Prefecture, the Huimin River in Kaifeng was always flooding, which brought many difficulties to the poor farmers on both sides of the river. Bao Zheng ordered all the terraces, gardens, and water pavilions built across the river to be demolished to leave space for more riparian work. The measure, of course, deeply offended the dignitaries of the day. Bao withstands all kinds of pressure that these people gave him and after careful field measurement and verification, he exposed the fraudulent activities of these bigwigs and demanded severe punishment. After unremitting efforts, he finally dredged the Huimin River, so that residents on both sides can live and work happily.

Eight praise Bao Zheng for his long-term unremitting efforts to study diligently.

At the age of 28, Bao Zheng was able to pass the highest imperial examinations, which was the result of his diligent study. The reason why he can be a good official in governing a country is that he has studied and thought diligently for a long time so he has learned many pieces of knowledge that others don't have.