



Non-fiction

Group 1

New Talse of Judge Pao

Kownloon Tong School (Primary Section), Ding, Ka Chun Marcus – 8

Who is Judge Pao? What is he? Is he a real person or an imaginary one? According to the history of China, Pao was a real person who lived in the Song Dynasty (960–1279). In fact, in Hong Kong, Sir Pao Yue Kong a well known person, is believed to have descended from him.

Pao, also known as the Chinese Sherlock Holmes, came from a poor family but rose to become a famous magistrate. He was also trusted and held many other important positions as well. He was greatly admired by all, especially the poor and vulnerable, victims of corrupt, selfish, greedy and power-hungry people such as Kings, rulers and high ranking officials of his time. These victims were often falsely accused of crimes and misbehaviour that they had never committed. With his sharp mind, righteousness and integrity and the rule of law, he became the saviour of these victims and was honoured with the title of Pao Qing Tian, for being a kind judge, a man of honesty and fairness. Also, he initiated many legal reforms to better address the grievances of people in China. What inspired him to take up such a task was Confucius' desire for a benevolent government where kindness and fairness prevail. His passion for justice was so great that when he found his nephew guilty of a crime, he did not spare him but sentenced him to death.

Is Pao known only to and loved by the Chinese? Of course not, he has been and is still greatly admired by people of different countries too. Even after his death, people still love to read his cases and stories written by subsequent writers.

And, was Pao the only upright judge able to solve mysteries of crimes and bring about justice? No, as throughout history, injustices were also rampant but fortunately with shrewd judges and mediators, like Pao, their victims were also rescued.

Take for example, in the Bible, Daniel was able to save Susanna, a victim of being falsely accused of wrong doing, from being stoned to death and then there was Jesus who also rescued a woman from a similar fate by making the accusers realize they were no better than she was.

Even now, with corrupt officials in governments and tyrants ruling countries, such sad cases still exist and that is why many crimes stories, such as those of Sherlock Holmes of England and those of Pierrot of France are welcome by readers. Like Pao both of them are ingenious detectives, famous for solving difficult intriguing crimes

To have a taste of what an excellent judge Pao was, we should read some of his more famous cases such as: EXECUTING BAO MAN, CIVET CAT EXCHANGED FOR CROWN PRINCE and THE CASE OF THE TWO NAILS.

To conclude, I just wish we have Judge Pao or judges like him with us today in this world which is still rampant with corruption and justice.

New Talse of Judge Pao

Kownloon Tong School (Primary Section), Quan, Julian James – 8

On a thunderous evening on the 5th of March, 999, the residents of the Bao family were busy making preparations to welcome a new member to their family. Suddenly a roaring baby's cry brought joy to the entire household. The cry of the baby was full of energy drowning out the deafening sound of the thunder. The Bao family's joy was however short-lived when they saw the baby's skin was as dark as the night and his forehead had the markings of a crescent moon. Many felt that the baby was cursed, but little did they know that night marked the beginning of a magnificent justice of the Song Dynasty, Bao Zheng commonly known as "Bao Gong".

Despite early hardship with people quick to judge him as cursed, Bao Zheng was diligent and at the age of 29, he passed the highest-level imperial examination and became qualified as a Jinshi. However, Bao Zheng did not start his official career for a decade, opting to stay at home and look after his ailing parents. After the passing of his parents, at 39 Bao was appointed magistrate of Tianchang County not far from his hometown. During his tenure, Bao was decisive in his judgment and was renowned for his love and respect for the people.

In 1040, Bao Zheng was promoted to the prefect of Duanzhou in the south for his exceptional performance. It was during these 3 years that Bao Zheng established his righteous and incorruptible reputation. Bao Zheng would not take bribes and abolished corrupt rules set by his predecessors. Bao Zheng was recalled back to the capital and named investigating censor in 1044. During the next two years Bao Zheng

In 1057, Bao was appointed the magistrate of the capital city of Kaifeng. Bao Zheng initiated several administrative reforms. The most famous reform was allowing citizens to directly lodge complaints, bypassing corrupt city clerks who only served those that could afford to pay them large sums of money. Bao Zheng gained much fame and popularity from his reforms and was loved by the people.

Bao Zheng died on the 3rd July 1062. During his 25 years in civil service, the people often referred to him as "Bao qingtian" or "Iron-faced judge", due to his righteousness, defending peasants and lower-class people against corruption and injustice. There were also assertions that he was the incarnation of the Astral Gods of Civil Arts. There were even rumors that the crescent moon on his forehead was a sign that he was a demigod which gave him the ability to communicate with the super-naturals, helping him to solve inexplicable cases.

To this day, the people still commemorate his exploits, with numerous TV series showcasing his deeds. In modern Chinese, Justice Bao is synonymous with the "Lady Justice" of western culture symbolizing justice for all.

China Sherlock Holmes

Kownloon Tong School (Primary Section), Yuen, Lok Sum Jacey – 9

Everyone knows Sherlock Holmes but do you know about China Sherlock Holmes Judge pao? Lets dig in ! He was born on fifth of March 999,at Shenxian ,Hefei,Luzhou, Northern songs Dynasty and died at third of July 1062 which is aged 63 at Kaifeng Northen Song Dynasty. He rest at Baogong Cemetery,Anhui ,China. His spouses is Lady Zhang and Lady Dong .His Domestic partner is Lady Sun.His had three Children which is Bao Yi (son) who had him with Lady Dong and have two daughters with Lady Sun.He had a father called Bao Lingyi.He was know for Chinese cultural personification of justice .His surname was Bao ,given name was Zheng and his Courtesy name was Xiren at last his posthumous name was Xiaosu. He still has some other name like,Bao Wenzheng,Bao Xiren,Bao Gong,Bao Longtu and more.Juge Bao is the capital of Song Dynasty so he has some officer they are Ma Han,Zhang Long and Zhao Hu. If you're wondering if he's a real or fake person,he is really real.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Marymount Primary School, Sin, Oi Man Angela – 8

One thousand years ago, corruption of government officials in Ancient China was common. If the offender corrupts the judge, the judge may behave unjustly and make decision with bias in favor of the offender. In addition, if the case involves the emperor, top government official or the judge's relatives, the judge may not be able to make decision fairly due to the bureaucracy and the legal system of Ancient China.

Judge Pao or Pao Zheng is a well-known official and judge in the Northern Song Dynasty. He gained the honorific title Justice Pao or Pao Qing Tian because he was renowned for his fairness and integrity.

One of Judge Pao's famous case is the case of executing Chen Shimei. Chen Shimei was a poor scholar and had a wife with two children. Shimei left his home and went to the capital for the [imperial examinations](#). It turned out that Shimei had [placed first in the examination](#). The emperor offered to marry his sister to Shimei. Although Shimei was already married, he kept his previous marriage a secret and married the princess. He even sent his servant to kill his family members in order to hide the secret. Although the imperial family intervened Judge Pao, he executed Shimei as Shimei lied to the emperor and committed murder which deserved capital punishment. The case of executing Chen Shimei demonstrates that Judge Pao is the symbol of justice. He used his tactic to bring the offender to court and he is fearless when he encounters the threat from the imperial family.

In the contemporary world, do we need another Judge Pao who can bring justice to us? Take a recent news reported by Fortune on 22 December 2022 as an example, WTO arbitrators concluded that the United States was out of line in requiring that [products from Hong Kong](#) be labeled as "Made in China". However, the United States replied it would ignore WTO's ruling. The behavior of the United States is not fair to Hong Kong.

If Judge Pao can step into this international trade issue, what should be the characteristics of the Judge Pao? Is it enough if Judge Pao is fearless of the threat from authority and putting justice as the priority? In my opinion, Judge Pao in the modern society should also be full of wisdom. Although different parties may have different point of views on an international trade issue, the modern Judge Pao should make all parties compromise and reach a win-win situation.

So should Judge Pao still play the role of "detective" as described in the [legend](#)? I believe that the modern Judge Pao should take a further step of "fighting crime" to "preventing crime and dispute". He should use his wisdom to teach us how to prevent crime and dispute. In that case, I believe the modern Judge Pao can bring us a better life and ideal future.

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Liu, Xiyao – 9

Judge Pao, China's Sherlock Holmes, really existed. If you lived in about 1000 years before any justice fighters, such as Batman, Detective Pikachu or even Mr. Sherlock, you would have seen the heroic figure. Judge Pao, a man who was keen to fight crime and leave peace behind wherever he goes. Later, his books were not only in Chinese, but the books are going to travel around the world with more languages.

Interesting connection was found between Hong Kong and Judge Pao. Many Hong Kong people were proud, and they were filled with pride because the Pao family grandchildren were living in Hong Kong. The "Patriarch Sir Pao Yue-Kong" Family was famous in China because of the family's name. And they won the notice from other cities and made Hong Kong "attractive". As for the grandchildren's hometown Hong Kong, often get awards in global indexes for having a world-class legal system and one of the planet's best corruption-fighting operations. We bet when the supernatural judge heard this, he would have been proud.



Non-fiction

Group 2

New Tales Of Judge Pao C.C.

Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Cai, Chloe – 10

IN ANCIENT CHINA,

One boy was different from all the rest. His skin was so dark it had a blue sheen if you looked at it in the sunlight, and on his forehead was a mysterious scar, shaped like a crescent moon.

That boy was me.

My name is Bao Zheng, and this is my life.

As I was born dark-skinned, I was considered cursed by my birth family and I was thrown away by my father, after meeting him for the first time. So naturally from a very small age, before I was barely even one, I was nursed by my older brother and sister-in-law.

There were many stories about me, all different. This is the truth. Or the twisted version of it.

...

MY FIRST CASE was called The Chalk Circle.

Once upon a time, a beautiful sixteen-year-old girl called Hai-Tang was sold into a house of *prostitution* by her impoverished family, after her father's death. Beauty may seem like a dream to many, but it does have its costs....

...

HAI-TANG STARED AT THE CEILING,

She had no more will to live. 'Why can't I just die?' She thought, her mind turning to all the pros and cons of dying. 'She was helpless, depressed and stained, so what was the point of living anymore?' Hai-Tang thought, her thoughts turning depressing and sad.

“來了!” A loud voice rang in her ears, as it resounded with the sound of a bronze gong being hit.

Hai-Tang dragged her tired and limp body to her bed, that is, if you could call a mass of cardboard and stones a bed. There was no fight left in the maiden anymore. None of the fire that crackled inside her when she was just starting in the prostitution house. Indeed when her family dumped her on the doorstep, she fought.

She had a fire in her that most thought was impossible to smother. However as time went on, and she became a shell of herself, her fire slowly weakened daily. As countless nights and days passed, her will to live grew smaller and smaller, until one day when her time of need and helplessness was at its peak, she was befriended by Ma Chun-Shing, a wealthy and childless tax collector, who visited her every Saturday.

Today was the last day Hai-Tang was going to meet him. For she was going to kill herself this very night.

'Ah, there he is.' Hai-Tang thought as her door swung open.

In the hall, a handsome man with stylish clothes and acrostic features sashayed down the hall and glanced at the walls. "Tsk," the man clicked his tongue, upon seeing the crumbling walls that had spots of green mould growing on the cracks that spread throughout the place.

As he walked towards the door at the end of the hall he visibly cringed when he heard some...very unpleasant sounds, emitting from a room to his right. As the man pushed the door open he walked briskly inside the door before coming to a sudden halt.

"Hai-Tang..." the man whispered, shocked at the sight of his usually lively friend. Sure, Hai-Tang's movements were always rather sluggish, her cheeks were hollowed out, and her skin ashy grey but she always had a lively and happy expression on her face. Unlike now.

After sweeping his judging gaze over at his friend the man couldn't take it anymore and his cold mask broke. "Hai-Tang, I cannot let you live here anymore!" The man shouts at her, his loud voice echoing in her room. "Then what do you propose?" Hai-Tang asks, her voice void of all emotion.

Already giving up.

"Become my second wife." A lengthy and awkward silence was followed by that sentence, until Hai-Tang finally broke the long and awkward silence her voice cracking as she said, "y-you'd do that f-for m-m-me?" "Of course," the man says smiling.

After that proclamation, Hai-Tang couldn't believe it, she was finally getting out of there. Her Prince Charming was finally coming for her.

How little did she know what fate had in store for her.

...

FATE SMILED, as she guided her pawn towards the blank space next to the king. "Well? Give up so easily, Life?" She said tauntingly to her opponent. "Never."

As she waited patiently for the other person to make a move. Suddenly the king moved slightly and a slightly loud thump was followed by the same voice from before.

"Checkmate."

...

HAI-TANG WOKE UP WITH A START, she groaned, the previous night's memories rushing through her head. Ma Chun-Shing bringing her to his home. Ma Chun-Shing introducing her to his first wife. And many, *many* more painful memories crashed into her head.

...

SIX MONTHS PASSED, and as our oblivious yet loving main character Hai-Tang smiles with adoration at her son, she unknowingly ignites the wrath of Ma Chun-Shing's first wife, Ah-Siu.

Ah-Siu, jealous person by nature and blinded by the black poison of jealousy, planned to destroy Hai-Tang's life.

...

Ah-Siu smiled, 'ah, it's finally the day,' she thought, glee visible in her eyes, 'the day when I can finally destroy that awful excuse for a woman!'

Ah-Siu, fed up with her husband's antics, accuses Hai-tang of adultery, and poisons Ma, blaming Hai-tang for the crime she committed.

After that, Ah-Siu claims to a court that Shoulang is her child so that she can gain rights to Ma's fortune.

The court believes Ah-Siu's words instead of Hai-Tang's, and Hai-Tang is arrested and beaten by guards until she confesses her crime, which she didn't do, but they don't know that do they?

As Hai-tang is about to be hanged, she is rescued by Bao Zheng in a scene similar to the Judgment of Solomon: Shoulang is placed in a circle of chalk between the two women, and each is ordered to pull the child toward her by hurtful means. Hai-Tang being Shoulang's mother couldn't bear to hurt her child, so she gave in and is judged his true mother.

The Absolute Judge And Detective in the world— Judge Bao

Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Chan, Jeffrey – 10

1. Abstract

To understand the current status of criminal justice in China and Hong Kong, it is necessary to become acquainted with its history and popular culture.

Although many scholars have argued the lack of legal tradition in this country, the creative and entertainment industry has produced ancient stage dramas and contemporary television dramas, that has delineated a legal culture that forms people's legal understanding about Modern China. Figures like Judge Pao have taken root in people's hearts over the course of years.

This article aims to look into the representations of the legal traditions and the spirit of law in Chinese society through the tales of Judge Pao.

2. Judge Pao and His Legendary Image

So who exactly is Judge Pao (包公) ?

Referred to as 'Bao Zheng', he was a smart and fearless politician who helped people solve cases during the Song Dynasty¹.

Raised in a scholar family, he passed the imperial examination at age of 29. From a magistrate to a judge, he gained his fame with his virtue of selflessness² and his exploits had been perfect for screenwriters in Chinese popular culture.

Since his first appearance³, Bao Zheng has been portrayed as a big man with a dark skin tone who never showed emotions. Most distinguishing was his imprinted birthmark on forehead that was shaped like a crescent moon. As a metaphor to Bao's righteousness and selflessness, it also made him the nickname 'Qing Tian'(青天⁴).

However, there is hardly any literary review that records these peculiar features of Bao⁵ and his look remains a mystery.

3. The Traditional Spirit of Law

This chapter will now examine how the Chinese notion of law is manifested through Judge Pao's administration. Any attempt to discuss this must start with the understanding of a standard gong'an⁶.

¹ The Song dynasty (宋朝 960–1279) was an imperial dynasty of China that began in 960 and lasted until 1279.

² In cases of corruption, Judge Bao was not afraid of the seniors or the rich and intervened to ensure the corrupted officials were justly punished. In cases of crimes, he even stepped up to arrest his own grandfather against a charge of murdering despite his heavy emotions and inside struggles. Although he may show personal and subjective feelings like any other humans, Bao Zheng was able to make the right decisions in the end.

³ Bao Zheng first appeared in a movie produced by the Shaw Brothers HK Ltd. called the Mermaid in 1965.

⁴ It is a phrase that literally means 'blue and clean sky', signifying a fair society with equality among all classes of people and cleanliness over corruption.

⁵ According to the illustrated historical paintings displayed in the Hall of South Fragrance (Nanxun Diian)⁵, he had an ordinary look just as other scholars and his face was not painted in black. 故宮南薰殿舊藏歷代名臣畫像中，也有一幅包拯畫像，繪出的包拯形象長得濃眉大耳，面目慈祥，與一般士大夫沒甚麼不同。 Retrieved from <https://www.xiaoxiaoqiang.net/how-much-false-history-does-bao-qingtian-tell-us-1/html>

⁶ There are always three parts within the stories, namely, 'the crime', 'the solution and 'the judge' (McIntyre, 2013). The victim usually visits the court by striking upon a gong and pleads for justice. The judge is then to solve the crime and punish the guilty party in front of a group of audience.⁷ According to the Human Rights Act Article 7, no one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence under national law at the time when it was committed. This Article shall not prejudice the trial and punishment of any person for any act or omission which, at the time when it was committed, was criminal according to the general principles of law recognised by civilised nations. Proceedings are protracted lest any man be unjustly sent to jail.

⁶ Hu Shi (1891–1962) was a Chinese philosopher, writer and diplomat who was one of the most influential advocates in China's New Culture Movement. He was nominated for a Nobel Prize in literature in 1939. Among his wide range of interests, including literature, history, criticism and pedagogy, Hu was one of the earliest scholars that gave notice to Judge Bao and Chinese detective stories, and has named Judge Pao as the 'Chinese Sherlock Holmes'.

In *The Ghost of the Pot* (盆兒鬼), the victim as a ghost prattled on his frustrations of being burnt into ashes and put in a pot. Not being petrified, Judge Bao facilitated the ghost to share, eventually revealing the evil plan and arrested two murderers who intended to get all the fortune from the businessman.

“But for a grieved ghost I would never have come. Judge Bao, Your virtue is perfection itself,” said the Ghost (Hayden 124).

The supernatural phenomena, that happened more than once, is not just a cinematic effect, it amplifies the traditional Chinese belief that regards crime as a debt. Whoever has committed crimes will have to pay back and be debarred from perpetrating further wrong.

4. The One and Only Chinese Sherlock Holmes

Even though Bao has left the world, his stories have solidified the standards for the modern court, and have also built people’s confidence in the Chinese justice system.

Exclusive of people’s novelty, Bao set the principle to ensure everyone get protected from being torn by agonies; tortured by cruelty; and bullied by evil-mindedness. A person’s innocence should never be judged by its cover⁷, no one can be executed until the trial has been completed and courts will have to justify their decisions.

We shall pay our respects to this Chinese Sherlock Holmes⁸, who plays a profound role in China and Hong Kong.

⁷ According to the Human Rights Act Article 7, no one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence under national law at the time when it was committed. This Article shall not prejudice the trial and punishment of any person for any act or omission which, at the time when it was committed, was criminal according to the general principles of law recognised by civilised nations. Proceedings are protracted lest any man be unjustly sent to jail.

⁸ Hu Shi (1891–1962) was a Chinese philosopher, writer and diplomat who was one of the most influential advocates in China’s New Culture Movement. He was nominated for a Nobel Prize in literature in 1939. Among his wide range of interests, including literature, history, criticism and pedagogy, Hu was one of the earliest scholars that gave notice to Judge Bao and Chinese detective stories, and has named Judge Pao as the ‘Chinese Sherlock Holmes’.

New Tales of Judge Pao

Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Chen, Renee – 10

A crescent moon hanging right in the middle of his forehead, a brownish skin color and a Futou hat that judges wore in the Song Dynasty. Do you know who that person is? Well, it is Judge Pao, the Chinese legendary Sherlock Holmes. Judge Pao's significant life influenced people there and then, also here and now.

Early life

Even though Pao was a late learner from an extremely poor family background, still, he accomplished his goal to be a man who understood and loved people in need. Born on March 5 999 in Luzhou Anhui, Pao grew up in a family that couldn't afford him to go to school. He had to work a part time job to earn some money so he could buy books to learn by himself. Maybe it's due to his own experience in a poor family and having limited resources, when Pao grew up, he could strongly understand people's hardship and hated corruption.

At age 29, Pao earned the highest and final degree in the imperial examinations and became a Jinshi. He must have made so much effort, considering the fact that he had never got a chance to receive formal education.

Soon he worked as a judge to solve crimes and cases for the government. But knowing that his parents were getting old, he decided to take care of his elderly instead of continuing his promising career. While he was taking care of his parents, he also learnt to take care of other people in need and love them, thus determined to look after more people in his career. This is exactly what happened when he resumed his job as a judge after his parents died.

Middle Life

Pao's career restarted in Tianchang, a place not far away from his hometown. Then, In 1057, he went to Kaifeng, where he changed some administrative reforms, such as allowing citizens to directly present complaints to city administrators. That means residents would no longer need to wait for a long time to have their issues heard so problems could be solved faster. This change not only saved time also ensured efficiency and effectiveness. However, it got objected by aristocrats complaining that Pao had given ordinary citizens too much freedom, but Pao insisted and continued those policies.

Cases

Nothing had ever shaken Pao's belief in justice. Here are two out of thousands of cases Pao dealt with.

Executing Chen Shimei

Chen Shimei had a happy family with two children and a wife called Qin Xianglian. However, after he earned the first place in the imperial examination, not only did he lie about his family to become the emperor's brother in law with his new marriage, but he ordered a servant to murder Qin and the children. Luckily, the servant was a nice person and chose not to kill them. Later Qin brought her cases to Judge Pao. After knowing the whole story, Pao executed Chen Shimei despite the pressure from the emperor and his sister.

Executing Pao Mian

Raised by his elder sister in law Wu, Pao saw her as a motherly figure, respecting and loving her. Years later, Wu's son, Pao Mian became a judge himself. Unfortunately Pao Mian was caught corrupting and taking bribes. On the one hand, Pao didn't want to kill the son of the woman who raised him; but on the other hand, he had no choice but to punish Pao Mian who broke the law. It was not easy for him but Pao still killed his family member to obey the law. It was Pao many years ago who sacrificed his career development for his family; it was the same Pao many years later who sentenced his family to death for justice and law.

During Pao's lifetime he earned a name called "Iron-Faced Judge" because he treated all the suspects and criminals the same. Pao was stern while treating ordinary citizens but also unbiased when dealing with aristocrats or even his family members.

Modern

Pao's meaningful life ended in 1062 in the capital city of Kaifeng, Henan. People later found that Pao left some warning for his family.

"Any of my descendants who commits bribery as an official shall not be allowed back home nor buried in the family burial site. He who shares not my values is not my descendant."

Maybe it was his warning that guided his later family members to be honest and responsible just like him. Judge Pao changed the world by helping poor people and Pao's descendant generations after is still making the world better. And that is Y. K. Pao.

Y. K. Pao was the same diligent just like his ancestor. Starting from a young age, Y. K. Pao, he worked during the day and studied at night. Similar to Judge Pao, he was also compassionate for poor people. After Y.K Pao retired from his work, he built a school to help children in poor families that didn't have money to go to school. Then he also started to do charities, donating money, food and water to the people who couldn't afford them. Y. K. Pao was a person just like Judge Pao, empathizing with the hardship of poor people.

A crescent moon hanging right in the middle of his forehead, a brownish skin color and a Futou that judges wore in the Song Dynasty. Do you know who that person is? Well, it is Judge Pao. For people in his time, he was the crescent moon sending off a glimmer of light in the dark and corrupted times. For people now, he is a role model who always stands for justice and who we should learn from. Although he lived a long time ago, his actions being such a fair judge would never be forgotten.

Reference

<https://www.google.com.hk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjJuKjzo6j8AhUR7WEKHZ6ECtkQFnoECB0QAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2F>

The Story of Bao Zheng

Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Leung, Arianna – 11

Chapter 1:

One day in 999 AD, on the 5th of March in Hefei, China, a true legend called Bao Zheng was born. He was born with dark skin and a crescent moon on his forehead. His distinctive appearance has made people realize how unique he already was.

Chapter 2:

Bao Zheng was raised among the low working class, which allowed him to understand people's hardships. Due to his upbringing, he hated corruption and gradually gained a strong desire for justice. Since then, he had started to realize his love and dedication in solving mysterious cases and helping people.

Chapter 3:

Bao Zheng was born into a scholar family. He worked extremely hard and after 2 decades and 8 years later, he passed the highest level imperial examination. He was later qualified as a "Jinshi", and was determined as magistrate of Jianchang County.

Although he could've accepted the position, he declined in order to take care of his elderly parents. He decided that it would be best to wait another decade to commence his position as the magistrate.

Throughout the course of taking care of his parents, Liu Yun (Magistrate of Luzhou) who was an outstanding poetic, and a very fair minded officer, would usually visit Bao Zheng. They got along well and as a result, Bao Zheng has been much influenced by Liu Yun, who has much respect and love for people.

Chapter 4:

At the age of 39, after Bao Zheng's parents passed away, he finally accepted his job as the magistrate of Tianchang county, and that's where Bao Zheng got his reputation as an extremely honest judge.

Chapter 5:

In 1040, Bao Zheng got promoted to the prefect of Duanzhou. However, in 1044, he finally returned to the capital where he was named "investigating censor" because of his amazing skills as a judge.

For example: there was this case where a man told Bao Zheng that his ox's tongue was suddenly cut off, after, Bao Zheng told the man to slaughter the ox and sell the ox. Soon after, another man walked in and said that the first man slaughtered the "beast of burden". After all of that, Bao Zheng asked why he cut the ox's tongue and accused the other man. That is when the culprit finally confessed.

Chapter 6:

In 1057, Bao Zheng was scheduled to be the magistrate of the capital city, Bian. Although Bao Zheng stayed in this position for 1 short year, commenced multiple administrative reforms. For instance, he has allowed citizens to complain to citizen administrators as they wish.

As Bao Zheng got more famous for being a superior judge, many good words and stories had spread about him. There were also myths that he was connected to Yanluo (a god) in the afterlife.

Chapter 7:

Unfortunately, in 1062 in the capital city of Kaifeng, Bao Zheng died. He was buried in 1063 and his tomb was soon after rebuilt by officials in 1066.

Sources:

- [Wikipedia \(Bao Zheng \)](#)

Judge Pao – A Fearless Legendary Figure

Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Wong, Cheuk Yiu Annette – 11

Last week, we uncovered the history of Mother Teresa and why her good deeds are known worldwide. This week, we will be flying across the globe and diving into the life of Judge Pao. Judge Pao was a Chinese politician during the reign of Emperor Renzong in China's Song Dynasty. During his 25 years in civil service, he consistently demonstrated extreme honesty and uprightness. This earned him the name Justice Pao due to his ability to defend peasants and commoners against corruption and injustice. Doesn't this sound similar to President Lincoln whom we introduced in last month's special issue? While President Lincoln was the most powerful figure of the United States, Judge Pao was still able to make waves as a politician, leaving a lasting legacy in Chinese history.

Objecting to the Emperor's Plan

One of his fearless actions was when he objected to the Emperor's plan, who could have had him instantly executed for the slightest lack of respect. On the occasion, China was struck with huge floods. When the waters finally receded, the emperor was so grateful that he decided to express his gratitude to the gods by issuing a blanket amnesty to all criminals and promoting all civil and military officials. Doesn't that sound insane? Even though the proposal was out of one's mind, not one person dared to object — except for one person. Judge Pao bravely objected to the plan, believing strongly that the plan was unjust. He explained that justice and meritocracy were too important to be set aside in this way. He believed firmly that acts of criminality must lead to punishment and genuine acts or merit must be the only way to achieve a rise in ranks in the government. With his persuasive skills, not only was Judge Pao unharmed by his objection, but he also managed to convince the Emperor to accept his opposing opinions. Despite living under an oppressive regime where opposition led to punishment, Judge Pao continued to speak out and continued to hold close to his beliefs.

Impeaching Zhang Yaozuo

Judge Pao also impeached Zhang Yaozuo, the concubine's uncle. Emperor Renzong's favourite consort had been Concubine Zhang, whom he had wanted to make empress but could not because of opposition by his (unknown to him, fake) mother, Empress Dowager Liu. Nevertheless, the concubine's uncle Zhang Yaozuo was quickly promoted within a few years from minor local posts to high office posts, such as the state finance commissioner. Soon after, Judge Pao and two other censors presented a memorandum together, which in strong language accused Zhang of mediocrity and shamelessness, even attributing natural disasters to his appointments. Obviously, the Emperor wasn't pleased to be contradicted. The irritated Emperor Renzong not only did nothing to Zhang Yaozuo, but he also awarded Consort Zhang's sister with a title four days later.

However, Judge Pao did not have any intentions of giving up, and submitted another memorandum by himself. Partly to appease protests by Judge Pao and others, the emperor relieved Zhang Yaozuo from his original position, but instead appointed him to a concurrent four-commissioner position: a slightly less powerful position but still in charge of the military and the Jingling Palace. Determined to alter this situation, Judge Pao submitted his third memorandum, voicing his strong protest and wrote famously, "The situation right now is, if Your Majesty is determined to appoint Yaozuo, then expel this advisor; if Your Majesty is to listen to this advisor, then Your Majesty must remove Yaozuo." In the next court meeting to authenticate these posts, there was a heated argument in court led by seven ministers including Judge Pao, which resulted in the removal of commissioner of palace attendant and commissioner of Jingling Palace from Zhang's appointment. Judge Pao's advice was turned down twice, but he did not give up, executing his determination and persistence. If you had been rejected not once but twice, would you have also persisted like Judge Pao till the end?

You would not be able to find another historical figure like Judge Pao. In a culture where no one thought it would be possible to object to the more powerful, Judge Pao helped them speak up. Fear never limited him and he was only driven by righteousness. Not only was he exceptionally brave, but he also inspired other judges with his righteousness and justice. His loyalty to his country, his boldness in impeaching corrupt officials and castigating powerful imperial families, and his justice when arresting criminals are what I admire most about Judge Pao.

Tune in again next week to *The Great and the Good* to read about the famous mathematician Stephen Hawking and his monumental discovery on black holes. Until then, stay curious!

Judge Bao

Discovery Mind Primary School, Lemaire, Samantha – 9

Judge Pao, also known as Justice Bao, is a Chinese icon known for his braveness and strong desire for justice. He was born on 5th March 999, in the town of Shen Xian, Hefei, Luzhou during the Song Dynasty. He was born into a middle-class scholarly family with Judge Bao's father, Bao Lingy, being both a scholar and an official. When he was 29 years old he passed the highest level of imperial examination and became a Jinshi but at that time his parents were elderly and he had to take care of them. At the age of 39 both of Bao's parents died. He was appointed magistrate of Tian Chang County which was not far from his hometown. In 1040 Bao Zheng was appointed as a prefect of Duan Zhou in the South. It was during his time in Duan Zhou that he wrote a poem. When his tenure was done in 1043 he returned to the capital and in 1045 Bao was sent to the Liao Dynasty as a messenger. In 1051, Bao became a magistrate in the capital of Bian for a period of 1 year and he became famous. Bao had 2 wives, Lady Zhang and Lady Dong, with whom he had a number of children. Sadly, Bao died in 1062 in the capital city of Kaifeng. He was 63 years old when that happened. He was buried in Daxingji in 1063. Now people tell legends and stories of Bao and his life across China. He has known by many names, but most people call him simply Bao or Bao Zheng. There are now lots and lots of legends and stories like the "Rescriptor Bao Cleverly Investigates the Circle of Chalk" or the "Rescriptor Bao Sells Rice at Chen Zhou" and the "Ding-Ding Dong-Dong: The Ghost of Pot". The Ghost of Pot is a famous story of Bao and was a play in Yuan during the Ming Dynasty. Most of the plays in that time were with Bao as the central character, but there also many other plays which feature Bao as a character.

Bao had many famous and difficult cases that he had to really think through to figure out what happened and get the answers. One of these brain twisting cases is called the "Civet Cat Exchanged for Crown Prince". In this case, Bao met a woman claiming to be the mother of the reigning Emperor Renzong. Years earlier that lady had been consort Li, an imperial concubine of the Emperor Zhen Zong of the Song dynasty before falling out of favour for allegedly giving birth to a bloody and dead Civet cat. Another case is called "Executing Bao Mian". When Bao was an infant he was raised by his elder sister, Wu, like a son. Bao Mian was a magistrate and was convicted of bribery and malfeasance. Finding it impossible to fulfil both Confucian concepts of loyalty and filial piety. There are also now films and series of the Chinese star, Judge Bao. One is "Young Justice Bao" and "Justice Bao: The First Year" or just "Justice Bao".

Judge Pao: The ancestor of Sherlock Holmes

Dulwich College Beijing, Yu, Kyle – 9

Introduction

Judge Pao was a crime fighter, who was also the first crime in the history. Judge Pao's original name was Bao Zheng, also known as Bao Qing Tian, Bao Gong, and Judge Pao, he had also had a nickname called the southern hero, because he lived in the South of China and helped people defeat many bad men, using his detective skills, he worked out all sorts of crimes. Before there was Detective Pikachu, before there was Batman, before there was Sherlock Holmes. . . there was Judge Pao. A crusading figure with skills to fight crime and clean up the land, Judge Pao lived more than 1,000 years before any of the other justice fighters which later appeared, this man gave authors a real kind of example before they start writing their own wonderful story.

Early Life

Bao Zheng was born on March 5th Year 999 in Song Dynasty in Hefei, China. Bao Shi Tong was his father and Xuan Shi was his mother, his skin was very black in the opera. On Bao Zheng's forehead, there was a moon mark, and that was also a birth mark that his parents gave him. Bao Zheng's family name was Bao, and his constellation was Pisces. Bao Zheng was in slow working class at Elementary school, and he understood the hardships, hated corruption and strongly desired for justice. At Song Dynasty, there were no University or College, but Bao Zheng passed the highest-level examination and became qualified as a Jinshi at the age of 29, in year of 1028.

Later Life

When Bao Zheng grew up, he learnt a lot of useful things in his life, because he solved lots of crimes later in his life. After a while, Bao Zheng went to the Nanjing, the capital of China in Song Dynasty, and was named an investigating censor in the year of 1044. After two years in this position, Bao Zheng submitted at least 13 memoranda to Emperor Renzong of Song on military, taxation, the examination system, and governmental dishonesty and incompetence. Bao Zheng had two **wives**, the first one was Lady Zhang and the other one was Lady Dong, because one died and then got married with another, Bao Zheng had two sons one was called Bao Yi, Bao shou died earlier. The other one was called Bao Shou. was named an investigating censor in the year of 1044. Then, Bao Zheng got tricked and was asked to help crime people, Bao Zheng was justice, so he denied them.

The Legacy Of Bao Qing Tian

Just like this, Bao Zheng was asked to be an official, he soon was known as Judge Pao, because Judge Pao helped so many good people, people started calling him Bao Qing Tian. Bao was his surname and Qing tian means great lord of heaven in Chinese, so he helped many people and lord of heaven also helps many people, therefore Bao Qing Tian means Judge Pao helps everybody. Unfortunately, his son, Bao Yi died in 1053 at an extremely young age

The TV Series

Judge Pao is actually fiction, this story is a series of 236 episodes and 10 seasons. The TV show's name is Justice Pao, this TV show was started on year 2010, it was finished on the year of 2012, but sometimes, Justice Pao was also in operas.

Interesting Facts

- Bao Zheng was originally white, just because people think he's tough, so people make him black in the opera. The original Bao Zheng was white, and even handsome.
- Bao Zheng's moon mark on his forehead was a religion.

Final

Unfortunately, because there was a large cinnabar in Bao Zheng's medicine, therefore, Emperor renzong poisoned Bao Zheng to death and at that time, Bao Zheng was only 63 years old, his death occurred in Kaifeng, China, on year 1062.

Judge Pao

ESF Glenealy School, Lee, Henie – 9

Who is this person named Judge Pao? Who is this person that I'm hearing? Well Judge Pao is an Inspirational person in China that will always be. Judge Pao is a Judge and a crime fighter that China has seen, a long time ago. Judge Pao was recreated on television with 236 episodes from Taiwan. That started on February 23rd 1993 to January 1994. Solving different mysteries by being a judge. Judge Pao have gotten a lot of names after of the recreation of the Justice Pao (Television series) With names of Judge Pao, Judge Bao, Bao Zheng, Justice Bao, Justice Pao, Bao Qing Tian(Mandarin version) and last Bao Gong. Judge Pao was born on March 5, 999 – July 3, 1062 and died at the age of 63. Judge Pao has peacefully passed away in the Capital city of Kaifeng. In Judge Pao's life he had 2 wives called Lady Zhang and Lady Dong. With the years with Lady Dong they have raised 2 daughters and 1 Son named Bao Yi, who was born in 1033 and died in 1053 at a young age of 20. Bao Yi's Son, Bao Wen Fu died too soon when he was 5 years old. Before Judge Pao was born Judge Pao's Mother had climbed up a mountain to collect firewood before Judge Pao's birth came! Judge Pao's Father's name is Bao Lingyi and his job is being a scholar. His grandfather's name is Bao Shi Tong. When he became 29 years old, Judge Pao have become qualified as Jinshi by passing the highest – level of imperial examination!

When he became a judge for his career, He had a lot of different mysteries. But this is one of the famous cases he has faced. Person named Chen Shimei had 2 children with Qing Xianglian, But Qing Xianglian betrayed Chen Shimei by marrying a King's Daughter and lied about it's marriage. One day Chen Shimei went looking for Qing Xianglian after she found him told him that she didn't care if he didn't live together or not but to help her child but he didn't want people to know he was lying about his marriage, so he went behind her back and try to murder them by hiring someone to murder the Chen Shimei and her kids, but he was brought by the Judge Pao and been asked by Pao even though Qing Xianglian was higher, he still investigated him and told them that he is rich, high and even though he has power, Judge Pao wanted to be fair to everyone and say with the rights that he might be rich, high and have power but it doesn't matter if he is cruel so he punished him even though he was rich. So Judge Pao was a fair person and believed innocent people also punish people no matter if they were rich or if they had power because he thought rich, power or highness doesn't matter. Judge Pao was a kind person who respected the innocent and helped all the people with the rights of telling the truth to everyone. So everyone was honored to have Judge Pao in the past that has peacefully passed away and he will be the inspiration for the future.

Justice Bao

ESF Glenealy School, Mithaiwala, Burhanuddin – 10

(China's Sherlock Holmes)

On a day when bright sunshine drenched the world, I was sitting in the middle of a timbered park, thinking long and hard about my write-up for the young writer's award. That's when I dozed off...

When I widened my eyes, I found myself in the 7000-year-old Ningbo city, in China. I flickered my eyes but only the vintage walls were to be seen. As I took a few steps forward, still trying to make sense of where I was, I saw a person: pale brown skin tone, with a distinct white crescent-shaped birthmark. To my great surprise this gentleman was none other than the one and only Judge Pao, Justice Bao, Bao Zheng or whatever you want to call him. This happened to be my ultimate luck! It suddenly dawned on me that perhaps I should interview him... I got my sharp pencil and precious leather-bound notebook ready to scribble down notes.

I politely enquired – “Can I interview you?”

“必须的! (Of Course!)” replied Judge Bao.

“Holy macaroni!” “I don't know how to speak mandarin!” I gasped.

“That's alright, I can speak English, but will you learn Mandarin?” asked Judge Bao.

I took a moment to ponder and then replied “yes.”

My first question was:

“Can you tell me about your family and early life?”

He replied:

“I was born on March 5th in the year 999 in Shenxian, Hefei, Northern Song Dynasty. My father was a scholar and an official, while my grandfather was a commoner. My parents couldn't afford to educate me, however, I managed to clear the imperial examination at the age of 29 and qualified as a Jinshi. I did not take this position to look after my elderly parents. I had two wives: Lady Zhang, with whom I had a son named Bao Yi, and Lady Dong with whom I had two daughters. Bao Yi died at a very young age.”

“Sorry to hear that!” I said gloomily.

“Tell me more about your experience as a judge,” I probed.

Judge Bao responded “I would share with you some of the astonishing life experiences.

The first one is when my opinion differed completely from the emperor. He went and freed all the prisoners and promoted many government officials, just after Ningbo fell due to the torrential waves that flooded the city. I scolded the emperor because His Majesty was planning to release people who had performed unacceptable things and promote individuals who had not worked for the position, just because he was overjoyed!”

“Hmmm! Did you actually scold the emperor? I asked

“Yes, I did.” answered Judge Bao. “I was granted a golden rod and an imperial sword by the previous emperor, which gave me the authority to reprimand the incumbent emperor. I was also given three knives to execute criminals: one decorated with a dog's head for commoners, one with a tiger's head for government officials and one with a dragon's head for nobles.”

By now, we had strolled together a long way. There was an eating house in the vicinity.

“Are you hungry?” asked Judge Bao.

I replied “Well!” “I don’t mind having lunch”. I could eat a horse, I muttered to myself.

We bought some mouth-watering food. I ordered an appetizing dim sum which had crunchy chicken meat while he ordered noodles that smelled heavenly, with fresh delicious vegetables. Now, like my blotter was stuffed with letters, I was filled with delicious food. Alright, back to the interview.

Judge Bao continued...”the second one is, civet cat exchange for crown prince (the baby). I had met Emperor Renzong’s mother, who had fallen out of favor for supposedly giving birth to a civet skinned cat, but the baby had been kidnapped by a rival named Guo, at the command of the jealous Consort Lui and had been replaced with the cat. A maid called Kou was ordered to kill the baby by Guo, however she could not muster the courage and instead gave the baby to the chief who in return secretly took it to the younger brother of the emperor. Eventually, the child was raised by him. Kuo was tortured to death by Guo when Liu began to suspect that the infant had survived. Subsequently, with the help of a woman dressed up like Kou’s ghost, I dressed up as Yama the God of Hell, to play on both Guo’s fear of the supernatural and guilt hereby extracting his confession. When the verdict was out, the emperor was reluctant to accept Consort Li. I then admonished the emperor and ruled that he should be beaten up for lack of piety instead they beat up the emperor’s dragon robe. He eventually accepted his mother and elevated her as the new Empress Dowager.”

“The third one is cracking the cattle tongue case... One day a peasant told me that someone had cut off one of his cattle’s tongue. I advised him to kill the bovine and sell it in the market. The peasant hesitated as it was illegal. I reassured him that if he listens to me, I will find the culprit. The peasant butchered the cattle and took it to the market. Shortly, a man came and accused the peasant of killing the cattle in the local court. I immediately arrested the man as it was clear that the wrongdoer wanted to cause grief and was annoyed on seeing the peasant make profit which is why he reported and sued him.”

“Now I know why you are the Sherlock Holmes of China!” I exclaimed.

“You were a very famous judge who had helped solve crime and was considered to be an extremely honest, clever and fair politician. It is also believed you became the immortal Yama of a Department of Hell known as ‘the Infernal Bureaucracy’ at night and worked as a supernatural judge sorting out the affairs of the Afterlife.”

By now the heavens had become murky and black, and it was about time to retreat home. I had one final question. “Do you have any Hong Kong connections?” “Well, yes, I do,” he replied. “My 29th generation descendant lived there, and his name is Sir Y.K. Pao. He built one of the world’s largest shipping companies called ‘King of The Sea’. His son-in-law Peter currently runs it.” Judge Bao asked me to meet Peter and give him his regards. “Of course,” I said. “It will be my pleasure!”

By now, I had woken up and was elated. This dream made me grateful for being in Hong Kong and appreciate the people who shaped its society. Judge Bao’s narration was very intriguing, it took me a long time to untangle the deep-rooted information, however it was worth being aware of.

I finally had a chronicle from the man himself for my young writers’ award!

Bibliography: Wikipedia, Friday every day, The world of Chinese Beijing tourism, Vibrant Dot, WayBack Machine and Shanghai daily. com.

Judge Bao: A Symbol of Justice and Fairness

ESF Glenealy School, Oladokun Piguillem, Sade – 9

LIFE

Bao Zheng was born on the 5th of March 999 in the small town of Shenxian (慎县) in Hefei, Anhui Province, and died on July 3rd 1062 in Kaifeng, Henan. Commonly known as Bao Gong (包公) that means Lord Bao, he is also known by Justice Bao, Judge Pao, Magistrate Bao and Judge Bao.

His family was from middle class. His father was a teacher and her mother use to go to the mountains to pick firewood. This allowed him to understand the meaning of hard work.

Judge Bao was a very clever and gifted child and studied very hard. Since young age he showed interested in justice cases and helped his father that was a magistrate. He proved fast that he was very talented and always hated corruption.

FAMILY

Judge Bao had two spouses

Lady Zhang which whom he had no descendants.

Lady Dong which whom he two daughters and one son, Bao Yi, born in 1033 and died in 1053 just after two years of being married to Lady Cui. They also had a son but died when he was only 2 years old.

When Bao impregnated a maid called Lady Sun, he send her to her hometown. Lady Cui (his son's widow) continued to send money and clothing to her until Lady Sun's son was born in 1057 and named him Bao Yan. Lady Cui secretly brought the boy to Judge Bao to continue Bao's family line. Bao Zheng and his wife rejoiced, and they renamed their new son Bao Shou.

This is why Lady Cui was greatly praised for her devotion to the protection of the Bao family line.

WORK

He is an important historical figure in Chinese history that worked as a government official during Song Dynasty.

In 1027 Bao passed the highest level imperial examination, that qualified him to become a government official called Jinshi (进士). This exam was normally taken in the capital every three years. But he did not start his career until 10 years later because he prioritized in taking care of her parents that were getting old. With this he even got more respected.

Bao held the following positions:

[Magistrate](#) of Jianchang

Magistrate of Tianchang

Prefect of Duanzhou

Fiscal Commissioner of Hebei

Vice Director of Ministry of Justice

Auxiliary in the Academy of Scholarly Worthies

Vice Commissioner of Ministry of Revenue

Prefect of Kaifeng

During his twenty five years in Civil Service, he was determined to fight very hard government corruption and consistently proved to be very honest and incorrupt, with actions such as convicting his own uncle, impeaching Emperor's Renzong favourite concubine, punishing powerful families, and executing people, including the son-in-law of the emperor and his nephew that was taking bribes and was found guilty. He was fair and impartial, no matter who the person he was judging was, which I think is the right thing to do.

Due to his wisdom and honesty, Judge Bao was granted several awards:

a golden rod and an imperial sword that gave him the authority to reprimand the incumbent emperor and execute convicted criminals without prior approval from the emperor.

three knives from the emperor to execute criminals:

one decorated with a dog's head used on commoners

one with a tiger's head used government officials

one with a dragon's head used on nobles or royal personages.

Judge Bao will always be remembered as the personification of justice and an icon of honesty among public servants or people that work for the government.

Due to his ability to defend everyone in the same way and his sense of justice, he gained the honorific title of Judge Bao (包青天 which literally means the Blue-Sky or Clear-Sky Bao) and Iron-Faced Judge.

In modern [Chinese](#), "Bao Gong" or "Bao Qingtian" is a metaphor or symbol of justice.

He is respected by everyone, especially among the peasants and the poor, for his intolerance of injustice, and the best proof of this intolerance is the warning that he left for his family when he died:

Any of my descendants who commits bribery as an official shall not be allowed back home nor buried in the family burial site. He who shares not my values is not my descendant.

He became the subject of literature and modern Chinese TV series in which his adventures and cases are featured.

The Memories of Judge Pao

ESF Kennedy School, Chen, Claire – 10

Introduction:

Bao was a Chinese politician who was known for his extreme honesty and uprightness who served in the reign of Emperor Renzong. The young Judge Pao was inspired by the benevolent governance and stories of virtuous in history to become a judge. After he died, he became a cultural symbol in movies and books.

Background:

Bao was born into a scholar family in Shenxian, Hefei, Luzhou. As Bao grew up among the lower working class, he well understood people's hardships and was determined to bring justice. At the age of 29, he passed the highest imperial examination and qualified as a Jinshi, which was a high imperial position. Just when his wonderful dreams were about to be fulfilled, his parents fell sick, since they were of remarkable age. He postponed his position for a decade to take care of his elderly parents until his late thirties. Instead of losing his position, his actions were respected as a sacrifice.

After caring for his parents, he returned to the government and became a high ranking government official during the reign of Emperor Renzong. At the age of 39, Bao was appointed as a magistrate of Tianchang County where he established his reputation as an astute judge.

Gaining Fame

Judge Pao became an uncompromising judge and wasn't afraid of speaking justice to important officials and the emperor himself. He even sentenced his own uncle and a lot of important families and officials whom the emperor took a liking to. One of the cases that proved he was an uncompromising judge happened after great flood waters died down. The emperor was so grateful to the gods that he wanted to give his officials a raise and free criminals. But Judge Pao protested because one has to earn your freedom and raises.

In 1040, he was promoted to prefect of Duanzhou, a place known for its inkstones. In Duanzhou he wrote this poem:

*The essence of governing is to have a cleansed heart,
The strategy of life is to follow upright ways.
An elegant stem will eventually turn into a pillar,
Refined steel cannot be bent into a hook.
Rats and sparrows overjoy when the granary is full,
Rabbits and foxes worry when the grassland dies.
History books contains teachings for those deceased:
Don't leave your descendants with only embarrassment!*

Bao returned to the capital and was named investigating censor and submitted at least 13 memoranda to Emperor Renzong.

In the years following 1045, Bao held these positions:

Fiscal commissioner of Hebei
Vice director of Ministry of Justice
Auxiliary in the academy of Scholar Worthies
Vice commissioner of Ministry of Revenue

Although he was only Magistrate of Kaifeng for a year, he initiated several reforms, thereby bypassing city clerks who were bribed by high ranking families. Bao gained a lot of fame when he dismissed Zhang Fangping, who currently held three positions that were passed onto Bao, which caused Ouyang Xiu to file a complaint against Bao.

Family

Bao had two wives, Lady Dong and Lady Cui. He had a son named Bao Yi who died at a young age while being a government official. He also had two daughters with Lady Dong. In 1053, two years after his marriage to Lady Cui, Bao's second son died at the age of five.

After Bao's maid, Lady Sun became pregnant, Bao dismissed her back to her hometown. But Lady Cui knew the maid was pregnant with Bao's child, so she continued to send food and money. Upon the birth of Lady Sun's son Bao Yan in 1057, Lady Cui secretly brought him to her house to foster him. The following year, she brought Bao Yan back to his biological father. Bao and his wife were overjoyed at the continuation of their family line and renamed their son Bao Shou. Lady Cui was greatly praised for her devotion to the protection of the family line.

Death

Bao died in the capital city of Kaifeng in 1063. He left the following warning for his family:

Any of my descendants who commits bribery as an official shall not be allowed back home nor buried in the family burial site. He who shares not my values is not my descendant.

The fact that Bao was willing to disinherit a descendant because of committed bribery proves that he is a truly dedicated judge.

Legacy

After Judge Pao died, people told many folktales and stories about him and framed him in several TV shows and movies. Bao was also known for his filial piety and his stern demeanour and he gained his title of "Iron-faced Judge". It was also known among the public that his smile was rarer than the clear waters of Yellow River.

Due to his famous reputation, he was idealised with the god Yanluo (Yama) and the infernal bureaucracy of Eastern Marchmount, on accounts of legends of him judging affairs in the afterlife as well as real life.

Descendants

His Hong Kong connection was due to his great grandchildren living in Hong Kong and have won many awards including regularly winning the world class legal system award and one of the world's best corruption fighting systems.

Sources: Friday Everyday, Wikipedia

Judge Pao

ESF Kennedy School, Tong, Beverlee – 10

Introduction

Judge Bao was a very wise judge. He was known as “China’s Sherlock Holmes” as they both had to investigate problems.

Bao Zheng (包拯, Bāo Zhěng) was born on the 5th of March in 999. People knew him as Bao Gong (包公, Bāo Gōng), and he was a Chinese politician during the reign of the emperor, Renzong, from the Song Dynasty. During his 25 years in civil service, Bao showed great honesty and integrity such as sentencing his own uncle and punishing powerful families. During his working years he has earned the name “Justice Bao (包青天, Bāo qīngtiān) from his ability to protect people against corruption.

Judge Bao is now honoured as a cultural symbol of justice in China. In Chinese mythology, he was usually shown wearing a zhang jiao putou hat, a type of hat that some Dynasty officials wore, and a crescent moon on his forehead.

Early life

Bao was born in a scholar family in Shenxian, China (慎县, 中國). His father Bao Lingyi (包令仪) was a scholar and an official, but his grandfather (包士通) was a commoner. Even though Bao’s parents could afford education, his mother had to climb up lots of mountains just to collect firewood just before she gave birth. Bao grew among a lower levelled class, but he still understood people’s stress and depression.

Magistrate of Tianchang

Bao was 39 after his parents passed away, then he was appointed magistrate of Tianchang County. It was then when Bao became an astute judge. A man once reported that his ox’s tongue had been sliced off. Bao asked him to return and then kill the ox. Then another man came and accused the other man of slaughtering a “beast of burden”. Bao concluded, “Then why did you cut the ox’s tongue then accuse him?” Surprised, the man had to tell Bao everything.

Prefect of Duanzhou

Bao Zheng was given the job to be the prefect of the south part in Duanzhou. In 1043, Bao left without a single inkstone. He was in Duanzhou when he wrote this poem:

清心為治本 (qīng xīn wèi zhì běn) The essence of governing is to have a cleansed heart

直道是身謀 (zhí dào shì shēn móu) – The strategy of life is to follow upright ways

秀幹終成棟 (xiù gàn zhōng chéng dòng) – An elegant stem will eventually turn into a pillar

精剛不作鉤 (jīng gāng bù zuò gōu) – Refined steel cannot be bent into a hook

倉充鼠雀喜 (cāng chōng shǔ què xǐ) – Rats and sparrows overjoy when the granary is full

草盡兔狐愁 (cǎo jìn tù hú chóu) – Rabbits and foxes worry when the grassland dies

史冊有遺訓 (shǐ cè yǒu yí xùn) – History books contain teachings by those deceased

勿貽來者羞 (wú yí lái zhě xiū) – Don't leave your descendants with only embarrassment

Messenger

Bao was sent to the Liao Dynasty to be a messenger. A Liao official accused the Song Dynasty of disrupting the peace by putting a secret door in the border of Xiangzhou, then Bao said, "Why is a side door required for intelligence?" the Liao Dynasty could not respond.

Family

Bao Zheng had two wives, Lady Zhang (張氏) and Lady Dong (董氏). He had one son, Bao Yi (包纘), born in 1033, and two daughters with Lady Dong. His one and only son died in 1053 while being a government officer, 2 years after he married Lady Cui (崔氏). Bao Yi's son, Bao Wenfu (包文輔) died at the age of 5. When a young maid, Lady Sun (孫氏) in Bao Zheng's family became pregnant, Bao let her go back to her hometown. Lady Cui, Bao Yi's wife, would always send her money and clothes. Upon the birth of Lady Sun's son named Bao Yan (包彊) (1057 – 1105), Lady Cui secretly brought him to her house to take care of him. She brought him back to his biological father the following year. Soon Bao Zheng and his wife rejoiced, and they named their new son Bao Shou (包綬).

Death

Bao died in 1062, in the capital city of Kaifeng, and he left the following message for his family:

Any of my descendants who commits bribery as an official shall not be allowed back home nor buried in the family burial site. He who shares not my values is not my descendant.

Bao was buried in Daxingji in 1063. His tomb was rebuilt by officials of the Huaixi Road in 1066. Lady Dong died in 1068 and was buried next to him.

The Story of Judge Pao

German Swiss International School, Agrawal, Siya – 10

Many years ago, long before Disney released their first movie or even before America was discovered there was a man, a legend called Bao Zheng.

Bao Zheng, also commonly known as Bao Gong or Judge Pao, was born in a poverty-stricken family on March 5th 999 in Shenxian. Bao Zheng didn't have a unique heritage as his father was a scholar and grandfather a commoner. Bao Zheng's parents faced hardships. Even though they could give an education to their son, his mother had to climb mountains to collect firewood right before he was born.

Bao Zheng grew up among people who had to work hard for a living. Therefore, he understood people's problems. He despised corrupt practices and only wanted justice by fair means. When he was 28 years old, Bao Zheng became a Jinshi. A Jinshi is the highest rank of the imperial scholar.

At that time Empress Liu was in charge and sent Bao Zheng to another state for a job but Bao Zheng's parents didn't want him to leave, so he had to refuse.

Bao Zheng's parents were becoming old, weak and were finding it harder to take care of themselves. Bao Zheng could have ignored them and continued with his own ambition but instead he postponed his plans for the future to take care of his parents. This showed his compassion and how he always put others before himself.

Around the time of the death of his parents, Bao Zheng was 39 years old. At the same time, he became magistrate of Tianchang County. Bao Zheng was able to join the government and became a high-ranking official during the reign of Emperor Renzong in the Song Dynasty. Eventually, Bao Zheng became a judge and solved cases getting officials to listen to the problems of commoners.

Bao Zheng had a set of guillotines that he used to execute criminals. The guillotine decorated with the dog's head was used on commoners, the guillotine decorated with the tiger's head was used on bureaucrats and the guillotine decorated with the dragon's head was used on nobles.

Once, Bao Zheng used the guillotine decorated with a dragon to execute Chen Shimei, the son-in-law of the emperor. Chen Shimei had been a poor scholar who came first in the Imperial examination. Chen Shimei had already been married to Qin Xianglian but lied about that so he could marry one of the princesses. Afraid of being discovered, Chen Shimei sent his servant, who was called Han Qi, to kill Qin Xianglian and her two children. Thankfully, Han was not fully loyal to Chen and helped Qin Xianglian escape. After doing this, Han committed suicide. When Qin was safe, she brought her case to Bao Zheng, who executed Chen Shimei.

Another time Bao Zheng helped a woman who was actually the mother of the current emperor (Renzong). Years ago the woman had been Consort Li, a wife of a previous emperor (Zhenzhong). Zhenzhong had stopped liking Li too much because her baby turned out to be a cat. But it is impossible for a human to give birth to something from another species so Li's baby was clearly not really a cat. What had really happened was that another wife of Zhenzhong, Consort Liu, swapped the child immediately after birth. Liu told a maid to kill the baby but the maid gave the baby to Zhenzhong's brother. The baby eventually became Emperor Renzong. After discovering all of this Bao Zheng told the emperor to accept his mother and after some hesitation, Renzong finally agreed.

Bao Zheng upheld justice and wouldn't surrender to anyone, no matter how powerful they were. As a judge, Bao was known for his honesty, confidence, and impartiality. He even made it possible for illiterate people to make complaints orally without having to do paperwork.

Bao Zheng was fearless and would do anything to ensure justice. Once, Bao Zheng was lecturing the emperor on why his most recent choice was bad since it might cause a lot of harm. The emperor got annoyed and tried to leave the room but Bao Zheng grabbed the emperor's clothes and wouldn't let him leave until the lecture was over. Bao Zheng could have been punished for this, but he still grabbed the emperor so he would listen, as Bao Zheng knew that if the emperor listened, it would benefit many greatly.

Stories of Bao Zheng depict him with dark skin and ugly features. People thought he was cursed. It is said that Bao Zheng was discarded by his father soon after being born. These are only legends and are not actually true even though these ideas are often used in fiction. Bao Zheng's myth was nourished by numerous stories during the later years of his life. He was depicted in many novels, ballads, operas, and later in movies and TV dramas as a demigod. A popular portrayal of Bao Zheng can be found in the TV series 'Justice Pao'

Bao Zheng had two wives called Lady Zhang and Lady Dong. He also had one son called Bao Yi and two daughters with Lady Dong. Bao Yi was born in 1033 and died in 1053 while being a government officer, two years after his marriage. Bao Yi had a son named Bao Wenfu, who died at the young age of five.

As someone who did what they thought was right, regardless of what others thought, Bao Zheng left a warning for his family. "Any of my descendants who commits corruption as an official shall not be allowed back home, nor buried in the family's burial site. He who shares not my values is not my descendant."

Albert Einstein said, "In matters of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems, for issues concerning the treatment of people are all the same."

Therefore, I also believe that Bao Zheng was a wise and compassionate man who did his best to fight for justice and equality for all.

Crystal Sky From Bao

Harrow International School Hong Kong, Chan, Joachim Edwin – 10

In front of unlimited gold, who could resist lifelong wealth? Facing to the top authority, who had no fear to die? There was one in the Chinese history, Bao Zheng, a real person who gained glory from all people, even after thousands of years since he died. He was famous for years because of his complete integrity and maintained justice consistently for his whole life. He was named as Bao Qingtian, which meant clear sky. He gained this name because he helped so many people in need, especially for those that were poor and had no power. He gave people the new hope in the darkest night.

Bao Zheng was born in 999 and passed away in 1062, which was in the Song Dynasty. He was a person full of parental respect, he put his family as the first priority. In order to take good care of his old parents, he even postponed his job assignment until they both died, which was already 10 years later. It was the traditional Chinese culture to love and respect their parents and elderly people in all aspects. To me, this was one of the most important values. Without my parents, I would not come to this world. My family is the first and most precious gift for me, let me have the chance to be loved and to learn how to show my love and gratitude in return.

In his early years of Bao Zheng's career, when his position was not that superior, he had already showed his strong sense of upright. If he saw something wrong, he would point it out directly without any hesitation. With long history the government officials were appointed by the prime minister or the chief officials, who usually selected people they preferred or trusted from their family or friends. In such a way they could exchange benefits to each other or hide their wrong doings from the king. It showed the true nature of humans to maximise the advantages they could take and to escape all punishments and penalties. However once Bao Zheng appeared, he advised the officials should be selected by proper examinations and assessments, followed by regular evaluations. The chosen officials should be able to perform their duties, for example, training the army and protecting the borders. In case the officials were involved in any corruption, they should be punished and could not return to the job for the rest of their lives. Not surprisingly the existing chief officials felt uneasy and not willing to follow, so they used their ways to force Bao Zheng to leave. From here this reflected his high level of integrity, of course he understood his position by that time was too weak to fight against the top officials but he insisted to point it out when he saw something was wrong.

In the eyes of the ordinary people, Bao Zheng was the only superhero who could save them from sufferings and pains, and willing to do so. It was always the rich became more rich and the poor could only get even more poor. The taxation system during that period created a big disaster for the general public, they did not have enough food but still they had to hand in all their money or belongings to the tax officials. Bao Zheng went to the town in person to help the people to negotiate with the tax officials in order to remove those harsh rules. Another good example of Bao Zheng showing great mercy to general people was once the military soldiers occupying the farmland to feed their horses. This resulted in lack of wheat as the farmers could not do their work with since no land to farm. Bao Zheng was very enraged at this so he immediately ordered the soldiers to return the land. Therefore he won the hearts of the general people as he was the first official to bring them out of the pain.

After years he reached the top levels of management, his words became more powerful. Still there were times that the king did not listen to his advice, especially when it came to some sensitive issues. There was a criminal had a very close relationship with the prime minister. Bao Zheng insisted to give out an appropriate punishment and he impeached up to 7 times to finally got the permission from the king to enforce the penalty. This was how he safeguarded the laws to be implemented in a way to show the true justice. Even though he knew he would lose his life if he made the king angry but he weighted the fairness more than his own life.

Along his whole career life, he did not take any benefits or advantages illegally from his position. More than that he would set out clear rules to abandon any corruption, for those who did it would receive punishment accordingly, no matter their positions, including the royal family members. Eventually all people were willing to voice out any crimes they saw because they knew Bao Zheng would investigate all cases fairly.

From years to years his legends getting passed on from generations to generations. The people built temples to worship him all around the world. He had so many good characters and practices for us to learn and follow. I believe the most essential ones are being fair and just to all people, love or treat the general people like your family, highly self disciplined. He is one of my role models to learn how to stand for myself for the right values, spread my kindness to all the people around me. Start from me to my family and friends, who will further spread the beliefs to their friends and families. I wish together we can all be covered by the crystal sky full of love and justice that will last for centuries.

Judge Pao – from a Pioneer Thousand Years Ago to a Modern Chinese Symbol of Justice

Heep Yunn Primary School, Lee, Esther – 9

Every country has its heroes, but were they born that way? What is more impressive --- to be born into the right family or with superpowers, or to be strong enough to make your own way and become an icon? Surely for Judge Pao, it was the latter. On 5th March of 999 a paramount figure in Chinese culture was born. Pao Zheng, named Xiren, commonly known as Pao Gong was born in Heifei, Luzhou of the China's Song Dynasty. He was not born a king or a judge, but his passion to make the world a better place made him a legend. Pao was first qualified as a Jinshi and had worked through his career as a Chinese politician until holding a high office and being well recognised for centuries. After years of service, he gained the title "Justice Pao".

Pao showed deep love and a sense of gratitude towards his parents. He was born into a scholar family and was greatly influenced by his parents, understanding the hardship of the people and developing a strong desire for justice. When Pao was about to start his career as magistrate, he decided to put his career on hold, returned home for 10 years to look after his elderly parents. He resumed as magistrate after his parents passed away. This chiasmic love and care for his family was later showed to his people, too.

Talking about Pao, the words 'wise', 'bold', 'just' and 'honest' are best to describe him.

Wise and bold, Pao introduced brand new and creative measures to improve the justice system. It is an ordinary practice now that both the prosecutor and the defendant can attend a hearing in the court. This was exceptional centuries ago. It was Pao who transformed the justice system in Kaifeng and allowed both sides to appear in the court and to present each side's views. This measure was unique and unheard of before Pao's era. With this remarkable reform, the number of unjust cases significantly reduced. Pao was also prominent for submitting a wealth of memoranda to the emperor on military, political, taxation and the examination systems.

He was bold and fearless when hearing the court cases. In one famous case during the reign of Emperor Zhenzong of the Song Dynasty, two concubines Liu De and Li Chen each were expecting a baby. Unfortunately, Concubine Liu De's own son passed away, but Concubine Li Chen gave birth to a prince. In order to save her status, Concubine Liu secretly kidnapped Li Chen's son and replaced it with a skinned civet cat. The emperor thought that Concubine Li gave birth to a freak. As punishment he kicked her out of the palace and made the son who was supposedly birthed by Concubine Liu as the crown prince. Pao was made aware of this matter. This accusation was a challenge against the imperial family and Pao risked his career and even his life when he decided to uncover the story. Pao was bold to accept the case. Later after much investigation, Pao got to the truth of the matter and was dauntless appearing before the emperor presenting the truth. This displays the wisdom and intelligence of Pao, as well as the ability to connect clues and stay focused.

Just and honest, Pao was able to use his influential position, as well as his sharp mind and natural curiosity to maintain a just livelihood for the people. When Pao was the officer of Duanzhou, it was the custom to present the famous ink stones from the province to the imperial family. When Pao discovered that previous officers had collected far more ink stones from the local manufacturers than the required tribute, he immediately abolished the corruption practice and ordered the manufacturers to deliver the required amount only. Pao was a truly upright person who was well respected by his colleagues and people alike. Definitely, not just that, but Pao was also loved and cherished by a lot of people.

Pao is such a central figure to Chinese culture, and there have been so many tales and TV series based on Pao's court case stories. In the dramas, he is often portrayed as an impartial figure with a black face and a white crescent moon on his forehead. Being highly recognised by the imperial family, Pao was granted the imperial sword from the previous emperor giving him the power to exhibit any person irrespective of his or her social class. Pao's stories are very popular even now.

A thousand years ago, Judge Pao was the symbol of justice, honesty and wisdom. He actually continues to be one today. His categorical and extreme style of ruling was needed for the Chinese society at the time. Throughout the history and nowadays, there are still a lot of 'bad guys' and unjust accusations, lying, stealing, etc. Judge Pao was a pioneer of his field and had to walk off the beaten track, making up new rules and methods as he went. When Judge Pao was alive, people looked up to him and nowadays we still use him as a role model. We look upon him, his character, his work and his morals as we strive together for a just and peaceful world.

Judge Pao

Hong Kong International School, Saranya, Manisha Raman – 11

Judge Pao, a famous historical figure in China, was a hugely remembered justice fighter. He fought for justice all his life. He was also a Politician. During his twenty-five years in civil service, Bao consistently demonstrated extreme honesty and uprightness, with actions such as impeaching an uncle of Emperor Renzong's favorite concubine and punishing powerful families.

Early life:

Bao Zheng was born into a scholar family in Shenxian. His Family was Middle class. His father Bao Lingyi was a scholar and an official, while his grandfather Bao Shi Tong was a commoner. Though Bao Zheng's family could afford Bao Zheng to go to school their mom had to climb mountains to collect firewood. When he was 29 years old Bao passed the highest-level imperial examination and became qualified as a jinshi. A jinshi is somebody who has passed the imperial examination and has the highest rank. This meant that he could be a government official. However, to take care of his aging parents, he didn't begin his career in officialdom until 10 years later, after his parents died and he had adequately observed all the mourning rituals. For this, Bao earned a high reputation.

As a Magistrate of Tianchang:

When his parents died Bao Zheng was 39 years old. He was then appointed as Magistrate of the Tianchang county. It was here that Bao first established his reputation as an astute judge. During his time as a magistrate here he solved countless cases which involved crime and dishonesty. According to an anecdote, a young boy earned about 100 copper coins after selling his fried dough sticks in the market. Then he took a nap on a rock in the market. But when he woke up, his 100 coins were gone. The boy began to cry because the money was needed to pay for the medical treatment of his sick mother. Bao, as a local official, happened to pass through the market and after learning of the case, ordered everyone in the market to each put a coin into a basin filled with water. When a coin dropped it created an oil bloom in the water, Bao caught the man who dropped it and accused him of stealing the boy's coins. He then explained that he had found out the boy was the only one selling oily products in the market and the caught man's coin was the only one that generated an oil bloom in the basin.

As a prefect of Duan Zhou:

In 1040 Bao Zheng was promoted to the prefect of Duan Zhou, a prefecture famous for its high-quality ink stones. However, Bao discovered that previous prefects had collected far more inkstones from manufacturers than the required tribute—several dozens of times more—to bribe influential ministers with the extras. Bao abolished the practice by telling manufacturers to fill only the required quota. When his tenure was up in 1043, Bao left without a single inkstone in his possession. It was in Duanzhou that he wrote this poem:

The essence of governing is to have a cleansed heart,
The strategy of life is to follow upright ways.

An elegant stem will eventually turn into a pillar,
Refined steel cannot be bent into a hook.

Rats and sparrows overjoy when the granary is full,
Rabbits and foxes worry when the grassland dies.

History books contain teachings by those deceased
Don't leave your descendants with only embarrassment!

As an investigative censor:

While Bao was an investigative censor, he sent at least 13 memoranda to Emperor Renzong of the Song dynasty stating about the military, taxation, the examination system, and governmental dishonesty and incompetence.

In the following years, Bao held the following positions:

Fiscal commissioner of Hebei

Vice Director of Ministry of Justice

Auxiliary in the Academy of Scholarly Worthies

Vice Commissioner of Ministry of Revenue

A case he solved when he was an investigative censor in the city of Bian jing was impeaching the emperor's concubine's uncle. Emperor Renzong's favorite consort for him was a concubine named Concubine Zhang. He wanted to make her his empress but couldn't because of his mother (who was not his biological mother but he didn't know that at that time) Empress Dowager Liu didn't allow it because of the Concubine's very low profile. He likes her so he knew he had to do something so he promoted the Concubine's uncle Zhang Yazhou to minor local posts to the high office quickly over the passing of a few years. Bao was looking at this problem so on July 12, 1050, Bao and 2 other censors together presented a memorandum that was strong and accused Zhang of his shamelessness. The emperor had committed bribery which was not the right thing to do. Annoyed, Emperor Renzong not only do nothing to the concubine's uncle but also awarded the consort's sister with a title. Bao worked on this case until it was solved. Like this, he has arrested many more officials who have committed bribery and other crimes.

The End of his Life

Bao Zheng died on the 3rd of July 1062 (aged 63) in the capital city of Kaifeng. His resting place is Baogong Cemetery, [Luyang District](#), [Hefei](#), [Anhui](#), [China](#). He had two wives, Lady Zhang and Lady Dong. He had 1 son and 2 daughters. Before he died though he had left a warning to his family members: "Any of my descendants commits bribery as an official shall not be allowed back home nor buried in the family burial site. He who doesn't share my values is not my descendant". He was a very memorable man and was loved. After his death, the people of Kaifeng built a memorial statue for him in a temple in his memory.

Overall as you can see Judge Pao was a person who fought for justice all his life. Our world requires several people like Judge Pao who are honest, brave, and upright. WE SHOULD FIGHT FOR JUSTICE FOR GLOBAL PEACE!

New Talse of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Kaan, Chi Hin – 11

Which ancient Chinese famous person best represents justice and strictness? Most of the people would think of Bao Zheng (999–1062), who was a Chinese politician during the reign of Emperor Renzong in China's Song Dynasty. He was born in Shexian, Hefei, Luzhou. His father Bao Lingyi was a scholar and an official, while his grandfather Bao Shi Tong was a commoner. As Bao grew up among low working class, he comprehended the hard life of workers, hated corruption and desired for justice. Since his father was a close friend of the local county magistrate, he became interested in trying cases and showed his talent in reasoning and judgment.

In 1027, Bao Zheng passed the highest-level imperial examination and obtained the title of Jinshi, which qualified him to become a government official. However, in order to take care of his aging parents, he did not begin his career in officialdom until 10 years later, after his parents died and he had properly observed all the mourning rituals. For this, Bao earned a high reputation for his filial piety. In 1040, he was promoted to the prefect of Duanzhou (modern Zhaoqing) in the south. Afterwards, he returned to the capital and was named an investigating censor in 1044. From 1057 to 1058, he was appointed as the prefect of Song's capital Kaifeng. He initiated a number of changes to better hear the grievances of the people, made him a legendary figure.

During Bao Zheng's years in the government service, he consistently demonstrated extreme honesty and uprightness, with actions such as tabling a number of proposals for reforming the national political, economic and military affairs. Also, he had thirty high officials demoted or dismissed for corruption, bribery, or dereliction of duty. Therefore, his name was always connected with the reputation for his integrity, daring to speak straightforwardly, defying power and strict law enforcement. He gained the honorific title 'Justice Bao' due to his ability to defend peasants and commoners against corruption or injustice.

There are many legends and stories about Bao Zheng and his witty approach to solve mysterious and tough cases. He always accompanied by his trusted bodyguard, Zhan Zhao and resourceful adviser, Gongsun Ce. His four enforcers, who were Wang Chao, Ma Han, Zhang Long and Zhao Hu, assist to arrest the criminals. One of the famous cases is The Case of Two Nails. In this case, Bao Zheng investigated a man's suspicious death whose cause was ruled as natural. The coroner confirmed that there was no injury in the whole body. However, the coroner's wife mentioned that someone could force long steel nails into the brain without injuring the body. The next day, the coroner was shocked to see a long nail was indeed driven into the dead man's brain, thus the dead man's widow was arrested for murder. Bao Zheng was surprised that the coroner's wife was right, so he began to question her and learned that the coroner was her second husband, because her first husband died and his death was also ruled as natural. Bao thought the coroner's wife might have used the same way to murder her first husband, therefore he ordered his enforcers to dig up her first husband's coffin. No doubt that there was a nail driven into the skull. Eventually, Bao caught the murders and resolved the case. Throughout the cases depicted Bao's upright, perceptive observation ability and wisdom in settling the complicated issues.

In 1062, Bao died in the Capital City of Kaifeng at age 63. There were many movies, films, TV series and comics featuring Bao as a justice and honest judge, such as 'The Crimson Palm', which is a film about a scholar who is framed for murder by his fiancée's father, and 'Young Justice Bao', which is a television series about the stories of Judge Bao. Bao gained so much respect that today people pray to him as "Bao Gong" God of Justice and considers him as a universal symbol of justice in China.

The upright spirit of Bao inspired and influenced Bao's descendants, and they were obeyed as family precepts for generations. Because of this, most descendants stay on their own and have a good reputation in all walks of life. Nowadays, you can go to Hefei city to visit Bao Zheng's Ancestral House, where you can learn the story of Bao, and Bao Zheng Cemetery, where Bao was buried and a wax museum depicting him. As an upright official, Bao was not afraid of power, was incorruptible, and dared to speak out for the people. Everyone should respect and learn from Bao, because his spirit and pride will always be in the hearts of the world.

New Talse of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Leng, Si Yang Cathy – 11

A lot of people might have heard legends or seen books and movies about Bao Zheng, or you may know him as ‘Bao Gong’ or ‘Judge Pao’ — a legendary politician from the Song Dynasty in ancient China.

Television series and fictional books often portray him as a dark-skinned man with a white crescent moon mark on his forehead, who fights crime in the mortal world during the day, and who works as a supernatural judge in the Afterlife at night. These stories are all inspired by his life, but does that mean all of the facts and events mentioned in movies and novels are true?

Primarily, did Bao Zheng really have a black face? Or even a crescent moon birthmark? The answer is no. Opposing to how he was portrayed in television series and fictional books, he was a fair-skinned person who had a white beard, with simple but elegant looks. But what about his crescent moon birthmark? That was merely a dramatic expression by later theatrical and literary works, to exaggerate how he symbolized brightness and purity.

Secondarily, while there are many folktales about him being a ‘supernatural’ judge, in truth, he was a mortal judge who fought corruption in the imperial justice system as a politician and an imperial general inspector. He was extremely well-known and popular with the locals because of his great honesty and uprightness, he also stood up for commoners when injustice or corruption occurred.

There is a play named “Bao Zheng cleverly investigates the circle of chalk” written in the Yuan Dynasty featuring Bao Zheng. A sixteen-year-old girl, Hai-tang, was sold into a house of prostitution and then taken by a wealthy and childless tax collector as his second wife. She bore him a son, Shoulang, but earns the jealousy of his first wife. The first wife accused Hai-tang of adultery then poisoned her husband and framed Hai-tang. Furthermore, she then claimed to a court that Shoulang was her child so that she could get all of her husband’s fortune. Hai-tang was arrested, and beaten until she confessed. As Hai-tang was about to be hanged, she was rescued by Bao Zheng. Shoulang was placed in a circle of chalk between the two women, and they were both ordered to pull the child toward themselves. As Hai-tang could not bear to hurt her child, she gave in. Bao Zheng knew that it was a mother’s nature to never hurt her child, so Hai-tang was judged as the real mother.

There are many other plays about Bao Zheng that are written, movies nowadays are also inspired by true events or plays. The effort of production alone is enough to show how much people respect and honour him. To this day, Bao Zheng is still seen as a legend — the incorruptible judge, who wasn’t afraid of standing up to the monarchy.

Brilliant Bao: Well and Lesser-known Stories

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Wang, Chi Yuen – 10

The 5th of March, year 999, 1023 years ago in the far past, was arguably one of the most important days in Chinese legal history of Chinese law. It was the day when Bao Zheng was born.

Historians can not agree on Bao's family origins. According to one version, Bao, the son of a scholar and an official, was born in a middle class family in Hefei, Anhui province. His parents had inspired him with wisdom of ancient sages such as Confucius since he was young. Bao was an exceptional student. In 1027, at the age of 29, he passed the highest-level imperial exam and became a 'Jinshi' or 'presented scholar'. Bao subsequently worked for various government posts, including the Magistrate of Tianchang, the Prefect of Kaifeng and an investigating censor.

Bao Zheng was very brave and outspoken. A report from CGTN described him as an 'upright official who dared to contradict the emperor.' Legend has it that Bao Zheng was once giving a lecture to Emperor Renzong, pointing out how wrong he was to offer a high-profile government position to the uncle of his favorite concubine. The emperor got furious and just wanted to leave the room. But Bao grabbed his clothes and would not let him go until he got his message across.

There are many legendary cases handled by Bao, some of which even appear in our textbook. A case in point is a story known as "Bao Trials a Stone".

One day, Bao was walking down a bustling street. Suddenly, he heard crying and decided to investigate. He then found the source of the noise: a boy next to a random and innocent-looking stone. He asked the boy kindly, 'Why are you crying?' The boy pulled himself together and replied, 'I sell youtiao (Chinese doughnut sticks with lots of oil). Today, I came out here earlier than usual. I saw how low the sun was and decided to take a nap. I put a pile of 100 coins next to me. When I woke up, they disappeared!' The boy broke into tears again.

'Very well, I will find the coin stealer.' Bao said calmly. He was thinking about how to bring the stealer on site and catch him red-handed. Then, as if a lightbulb lit over his head, he got a plan. He yelled, 'It must have been the stone!' Everyone who heard Bao yelling came over to see what was going on. Bao secretly thought, 'My plan is working!' Bao said to the stone, 'Did you steal his money?' Obviously, the stone didn't answer. Bao said again, 'Stone, did you steal the child's money?' The stone still didn't answer. Bao pretended to lose his temper and bellowed, 'If you don't tell the truth, I will crack your head open!' All the people around him laughed. Some even yelled loudly, 'Stones don't know how to talk!' 'Everybody says Bao Zheng is smart. But in reality, he is a stupid official!' Bao roared in anger, 'You are interrupting me interrogating a stone! Everyone must drop one coin into this pit of water!', pointing to the bucket at his feet. With the gaze of Bao Zheng, no one could escape doing the extraordinarily simple task of putting a coin into the bucket.

One person put a coin into the bucket and was just about to leave. But Bao said, 'Aha! The coin stealer! Don't you dare to leave!'

Bao Zheng's rationale works like this. Because youtiao is pretty oily, the boy always has oil on his hands. The coins he handles thus has oil on them. The oil ended up on the hands of the stealer when he exchanged coins with the boy. The stealer was then sent to jail for burglary.

Bao not only knew some science, as portrayed by the above example, but also understood criminal psychology very well. This can be illustrated in the following story. One day, an old farmer rushed to the yamen (government office), reporting that something had been stolen from his house. Bao initiated an investigation and soon found that what was stolen was his cow's tongue!

It is common sense that cows eat by pulling food with their tongue. Without the tongue, a cow can not eat and chew. Moreover, cutting off the tongue will cause oral infection, hastening the cow's death.

Having pondered for a while, Bao asked the old man to kill the cow and sell it in the market. The old man was bewildered by Bao's words, but did so, thinking he would make some money selling beef. He indeed made handsome money.

A few days later, a man appeared in the yamen, accusing the old man for killing and selling the cow. Back in the Song Dynasty, cows were scarce commodities. Therefore, killing or injuring a cow was considered a crime, and anyone who reports the killing would get a reward. However, it was Bao Zheng who privately instructed the old man to kill the cow. In other words, the old man slaughtered the cow with the government approval. Bao approved this because he thought that the real “tongue cutter” would be very jealous of the old man who made a hefty profit out of the dying cow, and reported the case as a revenge. It transpired that the “tongue cutter” did exactly what Bao expected. Bao set a psychological trap, and the criminal took the bait.

In many ways, Bao was a ground-breaking and unprecedented judge. He was intelligent, decisive, and upright. More importantly, he brought justice to underprivileged people. He embodies what Confucius said “Justice to all of the world.” This is incredible, given that he lived in a feudal society without a sound and modern legal system. He is a well-deserved “Lord Bao”.

It seems like Sherlock Holmes has a lot to learn.

The Tales of Judge Pao

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Zhang, Ngai Hing Esther – 11

A song said: "In Kaifeng, there is a Bao Qingtian who defends loyalty and justice without hesitation." The person mentioned in the song is Bao Gong. Bao Gong, whose real name is Bao Zheng, was born in Luzhou Prefecture of the Northern Song Dynasty (today's Hefei, Anhui). I am his compatriot. Today, there is a Baogong Temple in Hefei, Anhui Province, built for him. He is impartial in law enforcement, honest and clean, and has left many good deeds, which have been praised by people.

Bao Zheng reformed the local government, paid attention to production, consolidated national defense, promoted talented people and listened to the people's suggestions. He is a famous local minister in Chinese history and an outstanding representative of honest officials. Bao Zheng's name has long been a symbol of integrity. Bao Zheng was serious and upright. He hated those cruel and shameless officials and pursued loyalty all his life. Although he hated them deeply, he never gave up loyalty and forgiveness. He never readily agrees with others, nor easily pleased others.

Bao Zheng was a resolute man in the court. Under the old rules, the government could not be directly sued. Bao Zheng opened the front door of the government office so that the complainants could come to make statements freely. Therefore, eunuchs were greatly constrained by him. It is said that Bao Zheng's people were afraid of him. Even children and women knew his reputation. They called him "the bag"

Bao Zheng enjoys a high reputation in the society. His deeds are widely circulated, idealized and artistic, and many anecdotes and legends have been derived. There are stories and operas about Bao Zheng in the Southern Song Dynasty, and there are also a large number of Bao Zheng operas in the dramas of the Yuan Dynasty.

Bao Gong is a famous honest official in Chinese history. As a fellow villager, I am proud of such a historical celebrity in my hometown. I will work hard to become a person who contributes to the society.

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Joseph's Primary School, Chong, Chi Yeung – 11

According to Chinese history, there was once a famous judge called Judge Pao, his full name was Pao Qing Tian, who got thrown out of the house immediately after birth because of his ugly appearance. His sister, a woman who was notoriously known to be spoiled and ruined the child accidentally by doing things that she thought was going to help the child out of kindness who she was currently assigned to take care of without realizing what she had done. This happened to an orphan when Pao Qing Tian's sister found him on the streets and took care of him and ended up being a beggar. Now, people still believe that he is on the streets still begging for money believing that someone would be his savior and get him a home to live in for free. On the other hand, Pao Qing Tian's sister would be perfectly fine as a guardian if she didn't spoil children by accident.

Despite being took care of a woman that would spoil him, Pao Qing Tian still resisted his sister's offers that would make him spoiled because he had a talent of knowing what was right and what was wrong.

As Pao Qing Tian grew up, he went to school like normal children, though some of the students were a bit racist and laughed at Pao Qing Tian's black skin and bullied him, he still learned and made friends perfectly well. Halfway through primary school Pao developed a dislike at people who enjoyed bullying others and people who cheated or did things against the school rules because he knew that students should follow the school's rules if they chose to learn at that school. He also despised teachers who ignored things such as students who fought or cheated when they saw it because he knew that teachers should also be aware of student's actions and punish them if it was against the school rules other than teaching

When Pao Qing Tian was eleven, he suddenly thought to himself "Maybe I should study law and become a judge, so that I can clean China of corruption and crime and right all the wrongs that people have made." Though Pao Qing Tian wanted to be a judge as soon as possible, he still knew that he needed enough knowledge before he could go to law school so he decided to finish school before going to law school. After seven years when Pao Qing Tian was eighteen and finished secondary school, he immediately asked people in his town where was the nearest law school, and found out that the nearest law school, was 200 miles away and Pao Qing Tian had to ride on horseback and in ships to get there and it took him two months to get there.

After Pao Qing Tian arrived at the law school, he trotted lightly up the stairs to the principal's office, and greeted him. When the principal saw him, he said "Who are you, young man, I do not remember you being in my school, why are you here?" Pao Qing Tian replied "Sir, I come from a humble home and I am here to ask of the way of how to apply for this law school." The principal said "Very well, you are in luck, there is currently one space for one more student to join. Also, the waiting list is empty, so I suppose you could just take the examination test right now and get interviewed by me (all the teachers were teaching), to see if you are worthy to be in the school. That is, if you really want to join." Pao Qing Tian was elated and instantly said "I really want to join this law school, so I am willing to take the admissions test immediately. Fortunately enough for Pao Qing Tian, the admissions test only questioned basic laws like no killing other citizens, no stealing (pick-pocketing, shoplifting, burglary...), no blackmailing, all those random stuff that everybody knew about. Pao Qing Tian, knowing the basics, got into the law school easily.

In Pao Qing Tian's law education, he excelled at everything and was excellent at reasoning, citing sentences in laws and also public speaking, in order to prove that it was right to do something in court when he became judge. During Pao Qing Tian's law education, he revised for a long time for exams and through hard work, so he got perfect grades and got praised by his teachers from time to time at school.

A few years later, Pao Qing Tian graduated and got the title Judge Pao. He was widely known for his former success in law school. His first trial was a guy called Mike Whoppee who robbed another woman of her valuables in the middle of the night. In the middle of the trial, Mike silently took a knife out of a pocket and tried to fling it at someone, but before he knew it, he was held tightly and brought back to jail until he could see more sense than just trying to kill police, so the whole thing was declared as a mistrial. A few days later, Mike was accused for attacking police and thievery and he was imprisoned for 5 years for attempting to assault the police and stealing.

Some legends say that at night, Judge Pao works for the underworld in Chinese religions as judge, but I am definitely not buying that, since Judge Pao is definitely a human who is normal, just like us.

In Judge Pao's life, he had thousands more famous trials that he did, and all of China wept when Judge Pao died because he did so much for China during his day.

The Legendary Judge Pao

St. Joseph's Primary School, Pun, Sun Long Cardison – 11

For almost a thousand years, Judge Pao, named Bao Zheng (A.D. 999–1062) has served as the living embodiment of justice in Chinese history due to his uncompromising dedication to upholding the law without fear nor favor. Apart from his intolerance of injustice and corruption, Judge Pao was famous for his filial piety, stern demeanor, righteousness, superior wit and selflessness.

Judge Pao was far more than an astute judge during the reign of Emperor Renzong in the Song Dynasty. During his service, he fought fiercely against corruption, solved many complicated cases and punished corrupt high-ranking government officials and abusive imperial families, regardless of their powerful positions or connections in pursuit of justice. His uprightness, probity, integrity, wisdom and impartial judgment profoundly impressed everyone in the regions he served, earning him not only wide respect from people across the nation, but also high reputation for being a honest and fair government official.

The legend of Judge Pao has been well kept in Chinese memories for centuries. Stories about Judge Pao and his court cases were passed on many times in various forms of performing arts and literature, which continued to enjoy sustained popularity. Judge Pao was not only a legendary character, but also the figure of inspiration and hope: his virtue and spirit continued to have lasting impacts on Chinese culture and tradition and were highly valued and desired by the people.

Virtue of Filial Piety

Born into a scholar family in Hefei, China, Judge Pao was well respected for his filial piety as he put such virtue before his own ambition. At the age of 29, the diligent scholar passed the highest-level imperial examination and obtained the prestigious title of “presented scholar,” which qualified him to be a high-ranking government official. However, he had sacrificed his leading position and 10 years of work in order to take care of his elderly and weak parents at home until he reached his late thirties after his parents’ deaths when he had faithfully fulfilled all his responsibilities and duties as a son.

Courageous Spirit in Pursuit of Righteousness

Inspired by the Confucian idea of benevolent governance, Judge Pao was highly regarded as an impartial judge upholding the rule of law without fear nor favor to superior power. His firmness in law enforcement, uncompromising stance against corruption and criminal offenses and courage to impose the rule of law even on the Emperor, who could have him instantly executed for the slightest lack of respect, were founded on his loyalty to the country, love of his people and selflessness to put public interests before his own.

Judge Pao insisted that anyone, including high-ranking government officials and imperial families, deserved punishment if found guilty of wrong doings. According to historical records, more than 30 leading officials were demoted or dismissed due to accusation of corruption, bribery, dereliction of duty, misprision, dishonesty or incompetence during his service.

Despite living in a culture in which thoughts expressed too directly and vigorously to people in power could cause disaster, Judge Pao always succeeded in convincing the Emperor without inviting misfortune. He continued to speak his mind and told the Emperor, “Justice and meritocracy were too important to set aside!”

Values of Probity and Incorruptibility

Judge Pao, being the most prominent representative of probity and incorruptibility in Chinese history, continued to lead a modest life like a commoner, despite his high-ranking position at a time when abuse of power and corruption were prevalent in court and government services.

He firmly believed that impartial judgement could only be made with integrity and uprightness, not having unnecessary relationship nor doing favor for personal interests. Therefore, he was determined to fight government corruption and punished those who took advantage of their privileged positions to satisfy their own desire and greed.

He was also very strict with his family by setting the following rule: “Any of my descendants who breaks the law or becomes corrupt shall not return to our hometown nor buried in the family cemetery. He who shares not my values is not my descendant.”

Reputation for Investigatory Wit and Justice for All

Judge Pao consistently demonstrated exceptional wisdom in settling complicated cases. He never allowed the innocent to be misjudged or the guilty to be discharged. All of his court cases were handled fairly and justly.

As an intelligent judge, he was distinct from other magistrates or government officials who relied on torture to force confessions, which resulted in many innocent people being wrongly convicted. Instead, he solved cases by means of sharp observation, thorough investigation, logical deduction, incomparable wit and extraordinary patience.

Cases which were considered trivial or difficult to find evidence in ancient times when the level of science and technology was primitive and which were ignored by others due to lack of significance or evidence would only be heard and tried by Judge Pao who would do justice to all victims.

Symbol of Benevolence

Raised among low working class, Judge Pao was sympathetic about commoners' hardships and sufferings. Therefore, he initiated several material reforms in legal procedures to better hear the grievances of his people, allowing those with little education to make complaints orally and directly to the prefect without having to complete the paperwork, thereby bypassing the clerks, who were widely believed to be bribed by powerful families to drop a lawsuit. This avoided injustice brought by corrupt officials who manipulated the facts in the paperwork. Public order was consequently restored.

The Bright Moon Hung High in the Sky

Today, Judge Pao is still honored as the symbol of justice in Chinese civilization and well remembered for his probity, sternness, incorruptibility, intelligence and benevolence. His virtues and inner qualities are regarded as the highest spiritual and social values of Chinese culture by people from both traditional and modern Chinese societies. Crowds of visitors flock to a temple in Kaifeng city, where they commemorate China's most famous upright official. Devoted to justice for all, Judge Pao continues to shine where there is darkness!

New Tales of Judge Pao

St. Stephen's College Preparatory School, Cheung, Nga Ting Annette – 10

Vincent van Gogh once wrote in 1889 that he never got tired of the blue sky. When we look up at the clear and blue sky, its peace and calmness entitle it to be a byword for justice and moral integrity. There is a judge, Bao Zheng (包拯) (999–1062 A.D.), who wins the acclaim from the general public since Northern Sung Dynasty (960–1127 A.D.) and is popularly symbolised as Clear-Sky Bao (Bao Qingtian 包青天). What kind of good qualities would endear Judge Bao to Chinese for over thousands of years? Let's explore why and how the legendary Judge Bao is remembered for his integrity over the centuries.

Judge Bao's name was Bao Zheng (包拯), also Bao Gong (包公), Bao Longtu (包龍圖) after his appointment by the Emperor as Longtuge Daxueshi, etc. He was born in an official and well-educated family from Luzhou, China. Besides being an astute judge at Kaifeng in Henan Province, China, Judge Bao served in the civil service for around a quarter of a century and was promoted to high-ranking posts, including but not limited to Kaifeng Prefecture, the Treasury and the Military Affairs. He repeatedly pleaded to Emperor Renzong (reign: 1022–1063 A.D.) to be compassionate for the public's sufferings and stop making endless exorbitant demands on the common people. He is impartial and fearless of any privileged and powerful political figures or officials and the closest relatives of the Emperor and fought against all illegal actions by punishing wrongdoers from all walks of life. One famous example of Judge Bao's exemplification of judicial independence is his impeachment of Zhang Yaozuo, an uncle of the Emperor's concubine. Judge Bao is also famous for his incorruptibility and does not allow any of his descendants who commits bribery to return home or be buried in the family burial site. Upon his death, the Emperor gave him the honorary rank of Minister of Rites and the posthumous title of Filial and Reverent Dukes. The full confidence and the backing of the Emperor and other highest officials are prerequisite for his successful implementation of rule of law in the complex bureaucracy of the imperial China.

As Judge Bao becomes famous, tales spread of his miraculous powers of detection and become fictional. In the stories, Judge Bao is portrayed in a special image – he has a dark iron-colored complexion, which in Chinese drama, Xiqu, symbolises justice, incorruptibility and impartiality. The crescent moon mark on his forehead “added” by dramas since Ming and Qing Dynasties points to the hope and brightness brought by him. Some stories even state that Judge Bao investigates both the worldly cases for human beings in the daytime and the spiritual cases in the underworld for the dead people in the nighttime. Why is the history connected with the legend which turns him into a “half-man-half-mythological” hero?

First, one needs to understand various traditional Chinese values in Judge Bao's legend. The supernatural intervention in his cases reflects the root of the Chinese emphasis on criminal justice, namely, morality's ties to their cosmology. Since the Spring and Autumn period (771–476 B.C.), Confucianism, one of the dominant academic and political beliefs, indicates that every element of universe is interconnected with each other and human society and human life are parts of the entire universe with a moral principle operating to balance and maintain harmony. Justice can therefore be naturally restored by good morality and supernatural intervention, etc. Next, Confucianism emphasizes its key idea of “filial piety”, taking form of obedience to parental authority, ancestor worship and the devotion to family which help to strengthen the surrounding society and unite the empire. Later in Sung Dynasty, the state supports Neo-Confucianism to revive the ancient Confucian doctrines and emphasizes morality for the whole empire.

Further, the interplays among the above Chinese values, literatures like chantefables, novels, theatre plays, illustrations and other art pieces since Sung Dynasty featuring Judge Bao and the faith from common Chinese general public make the unique contributions to the growing imagery and historical legend. One of the early written literatures, a set of widely performed ballad-stories for narrating and singing (namely, shuochang cihua which the performers tell the Judge Bao stories through an alteration of spoken prose and chanted verse), was printed in Ming Dynasty (1465–1487). Another edition “Bao Longtu adjudicates on Hundred Court Cases” (1594) inspired other storytellers and dramatists. In around 1879, Shi Yukun's novel, “The Three Hero and Five Gallants”, compiled and dispersed his stories into a more coherent narrative. The traditional opera is unarguably a good medium for the wider illiterate public to learn about the court cases.

One of the famous tales in Mr. Shi's novel which embraced the above enrichments was the exchange of civet cat for baby prince. In this tale, a jealous emperor's concubine secretly swapped the infant Emperor Renzong with a civet cat and alleged Emperor Renzong's mother to give birth to such animal. At the request of the exiled mothers after decades, Judge Bao found the truth with the help of a dead royal servant's spirit and got confessions from all wrongdoers. Yet, Emperor Renzong was reluctant to accept her as his mother. Judge Bao ordered to beat his dragon gown, instead of Emperor Renzong, for lack of filial piety. This famous new scene of beating dragon gown is added by subsequent Beijing opera plays about Judge Bao which resemble Mr Shi's novel.

Nowadays, many Asian and foreign people recognise Judge Bao as a justice icon and Baogong Park and temples are established in Asian countries for worship and tourism. Besides dramas, vernacular fictions, modern and foreign movies and television series, [the Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies founded by the](#) Harvard-Yenching Institute has Judge Bao's cases reconstructed. Judge Bao preserves the priceless Chinese values and the public faith on impartiality, fairness and incorruptibility should be well preserved throughout the world.



Non-fiction

Group 3

Judge Pao, China's Ancient Detective

Chinese International School, Lent, Annabella – 12

For over multiple centuries and decades, Judge Pao was the pinnacle of justice in China and served as its foremost representation of fairness and equity. The epitome of integrity, if you will. Due to the plethora of TV shows, novels, plays, and films that have been based on his life, he is instantly recognized by people everywhere. Even an eight-ballad tale was written about him and the life he led. All of these come in many different languages and have multiple translations, so he is a globally recognizable figure. One example of a novel written about him is “The Seven Heroes and Five Gallants.” Judge Pao was a Chinese politician who performed twenty-five years of civil service and was a true hero.

Judge Pao was born on March 5th, 999, and his birth name was originally Bao Zheng. His family was middle class when he was a little child. His grandfather, Bao Shi Tong, was merely a commoner, and his father was a peasant. Judge Pao was motivated to alter his poor, struggling lifestyle situation that he was forced to live in, and therefore he became a qualified Jinshi at the young age of twenty-two. He successfully passed the most difficult imperial test. (A Jinshi was someone who had passed the highest level of imperial examinations.) Jinshi are also commonly known as Imperial Scholars. These exams were typically conducted in the palace, and becoming a Jinshi was very rare because usually only one or two percent of test takers became a Jinshi per year. It was very difficult to become one and very exclusive. Some may argue that it was because he went through many hardships and rough times when he was a young child that it shaped his career path of justice and fairness.

One case that Judge Pao solved was when a man claimed that the tongue of his ox had been severed. He was instructed to murder and sell the dead ox by Judge Pao. Soon after, a second man approached Judge Pao and charged the first man with animal cruelty and intentionally killing an ox for no reason. The second man was shouted at by Judge Pao, and Judge Pao charged him with intentionally framing the first man by chopping off the tongue of the ox. The offender's horror and state of shock forced him to confess his guilt. When it came to injustice, Judge Pao was an extremely rigorous and intolerant man.

He was known as the "iron faced judge," and people liked to joke that the Yellow River's clean water was as scarce as his smiles. (The Yellow River is so named because of its muddy, sandy appearance that gives it a dirty yellow and brown tint, and more than 80% of it is filthy and polluted) He hated deceit and fraud and he always stood up for what was right. Once, he was even brave and courageous enough to scold and reprimand the emperor. In the olden days, that could have easily gotten Pao immediately beheaded or hung. Yet he still stood up for what was right.

Another famous one of Judge Pao's cases was the case of the Chalk Circle. Hai Tang was a sixteen-year-old girl who was born into a poor family. They gave her up to a prostitution house. She became Ma Chun-Shing's second wife, but Ma Chun-Shing's first wife, Ah-Siu, got jealous of Hai Tang and Ma Chun-Shing being a happy couple together. When Hai Tang and Ma Chun-Shing had a son, Ah-Siu accused Hai Tang of adultery and Hai Tang got beaten. She was nearly hung to death when Judge Pao came to rescue her. Hai Tang's son Shoulang was placed into a circle drawn with chalk and whichever woman the child went to was deemed his mother. In the end, Judge Pao judged Hai Tang the true mother of the child and Ah-Siu was found guilty of falsely accusing Hai Tang.

He also executed Chen Shimei. Chen Shimei had a wife and two children. He then left his family for an imperial examination. When he passed, he lied and pretended to be single, successfully becoming the emperor's son in law. Chen's wife, Qin, and his two children later moved to the capital and found out what happened and how Chen became the emperor's son in law. Qin was desperate for him to come back and help her with their children, but he refused and ordered them all to be killed. However, the executor was actually on Qin's side and was against Chen, so

he didn't kill them. Qin eventually decided to go to Judge Pao and beg for help, so Chen was tried and arrested. Finally, Judge Pao successfully managed to execute Chen Shimei.

The last example of Judge Pao's cases was when he was presented with the case of a mysterious death. A widow's husband had died, and when the autopsy was performed, there seemed to have been no direct injuries related to his body and he originally seemed to have died of natural causes. However, the coroner's wife suggested that it might have been an injury related to the brain. Sure enough, after a little bit of research Judge Pao found out that a long nail had been pushed into the head of the husband, killing him. Since the widow also had a previous husband that had also died of "natural" causes, they dug him up and found yet another long nail embedded in his skull and in his brain. The widow was tried and found guilty of killing her husbands because she wanted to inherit money from their wills so she could finally be rich and live a wealthy, long life. She was executed for intentional murder.

As a result of all of these successful cases, Judge Pao was given the name of 'Justice Pao.' Shortly after this, he turned thirty-nine years old. He then composed a poem while being elevated to the position of Duanzhou prefect in 1040.

“The essence of governing is to have a cleansed heart,
The strategy of life is to follow upright ways.
An elegant stem will eventually turn into a pillar,
Refined steel cannot be bent into a hook.
Rats and sparrows overjoy when the granary is full,
Rabbits and foxes worry when the grassland dies.
History books contain teachings by those deceased:
Don't leave your descendants with only embarrassment!”

Lady Zhang and Lady Dong were Judge Pao's two wives. With Lady Dong, Pao had two daughters and one son, Bao Yi, born in 1033. Two years after marrying Lady Cui, his only son Bao Yi passed away in 1053 at a young age while serving as a government official.

Judge Pao also served as the fiscal commissioner of Hebei, an assistant in the academy of learned worthies, vice commissioner of the ministry of revenue, deputy director of the ministry of justice, minister of finance, and he was also the Bian magistrate in 1057. Throughout the years and throughout all of his positions, he demoted and fired thirty high-ranking officials in total.

He also has a fascinating link to Hong Kong. His family tree has been well documented, and the famed Sir Y.K. Pao family is related to him. The family hails from Hong Kong itself. Hong Kong, where his relatives currently reside, consistently has top honors in international rankings for having a top-notch legal system and one of the strongest corruption-fighting initiatives in the entire world.

Finally, he died during the year of 1062, in Kaifeng, Hainan. He was sixty-three years old, and his body was buried in 1063, a year after he died. Once his wife, Lady Dong, died during the year 1068, she was buried beside him. His tomb was officially fixed and rebuilt during the year 1066 by officials.

Judge Pao came to represent fairness and integrity, gaining acceptance and popularity while doing so. Nevertheless, despite his lofty position, he was a very modest and humble individual who normally preferred to live simply and enjoy everyday life like a commoner. He upheld justice and minimized corruption. There is a Chinese proverb that applies to him quite well: “One justice can overpower a hundred evils.” Truly, he was a real-life Chinese Sherlock Holmes.

New Tales of Judge Pao: An Icon of Justice

Heep Yunn School, Lam, Yat Yu – 13

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

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

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

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

One of classic traits most associated with Judge Pao is his uncompromising belief in justice. Solving criminal cases, uncovering the truth and sentencing the culprit with a fair degree of punishment is the essence of justice, and it is what Judge Pao has been striving for in nearly all of his crime stories. To achieve justice, Judge Pao’s righteousness comes into play. His concern for the lower class in society; his hatred for corruption and wrongdoing added up with

his determination to eradicate crime inspires him to fight for the weak and against the powerful. Take the tale of Judge Pao Cleverly Executes Court Official Lu for example. This story begins with how a favored official of the emperor, Official Lu commits heinous crimes, including kidnapping both the wives of silversmith Lee and Governor Zhang. When Judge Pao, who has been wanting to sentence Official Lu for his past offenses, hears about this, he has an ingenious idea of miswriting Official Lu's name on the memorial for his sentence in order not to be discovered by the emperor, then writing his name correctly on the memorial after approval so that Official Lu would be executed. Judge Pao's plan succeeds, Official Lu is executed, bringing both families of Lee and Zhang back together. This is a perfect example reflecting how Judge Pao seeks justice for the weak who are harmed and takes action to punish the powerful who deserve it with his unswerving sense of uprightness.

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

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

New Tales of Judge Pao

Heep Yunn School, Lau, Yin Tung - 14

When I was reading a Chinese book, I came across an interesting idiom, which translates literally to ‘iron-faced and selfless’. Nowadays, while it is used to describe the just and impartial, it was originally used to represent Judge Pao, a truly equitable and righteous figure so powerful that he became the Chinese symbol of justice.

The illustrious Judge Pao himself was not just a legend — Bao Zheng was a real man who devoted himself to combating corruption and crime during the Northern Song Dynasty some 1,000 years ago. His incorruptible character and fair judgement earned him many different names, such as ‘Bao Gong’, ‘Bao Qingtian’, and ‘Bao Heitan’ due to his dark face in later portrayals, with the meaning of ‘black coal’. He was even known as ‘Yanluo Tianzi’, the God of Death in Chinese mythology who judged and ruled over people in the underworld, owing to the beliefs that he became the Yanluo Tianzi at night or after death because he was so fair and honest. His smiles were said to be as rare as clear water in the Yellow River. During his life, he served as a magistrate, an investigating censor and even a prefect in different cities, including the then-capital of Kaifeng, and had a reputation for upholding justice as a judge. This earned him much respect from the peasants of that time, and he was even idolized like a god.

There are a lot of stories in the ancient pages of Song Shi. It is an official Song dynasty historical record, and gives us a peek into the true story of this legendary character. One of these tales is the impeachment of Zhang Yaozuo, the uncle of the emperor's concubine, who was given political power due to his special status. Bao and other officials protested strongly against this. His unhesitant conflicts with royalty and his equal treatment of all offenders reflects his daring and objectiveness. Moreover, Bao is not only fair and just — in the story of the sliced ox-tongue, a man cut off the tongue of a farming ox who belonged to the neighbour that he was unhappy with. Bao ordered the neighbour to kill the ox, which was a crime back then, and successfully tempted the culprit to call out his neighbour for it. Bao's clever approach to the problem shows his intelligence as well as his determined pursuit for the truth. This undoubtedly makes him the ‘Sherlock Holmes’ of ancient China. Furthermore, despite being offered opportunities to higher positions, Bao remained a magistrate, the lowest level of the central government at that time, in order to look after his elderly parents. It was only after the mourning of their deaths had been properly executed, when he finally accepted these offers. His faithfulness to them is admirable. With his fairness, strict morals, cleverness, and dedication to his parents, Bao is definitely a symbol of good virtue. However, of course, Bao's story does not end here, and even after his death, his legacy greatly influenced the generations after.

The essence of Bao's impartial character was preserved through oral history, folklore, entertainment, and popular culture. Bao's honourable image in traditional culture also shows the respected figure he was when he was alive, inspiring people to spread his story and portray him as a personification of justice. He also became a hero of some of the earliest Chinese crime fiction stories, featured in a myriad of plays and novels in the Ming, Yuan and Qing dynasties, such as the novel *The Seven Heroes and Five Gallants* and the short story collection *The Judge Bao Cases*. Bao was also a common feature in Chinese opera, in cases such as the execution of Chen Shimei. He was the princess' husband who abandoned his wife and daughters for a life of luxury, and got the punishment he deserved for deserting his family. Another popular opera is the case of the dead civet cat exchanged for the newborn prince, where the former Consort Li was denied her rightful position as the empress, because her son was stolen by Consort Liu. In the end, with Bao's intervention, she was crowned the empress dowager as she had deserved. Many modern films and television series have also been based on Bao's stories, from the earliest ones such as *The Crimson Palm* in the 1960s up to this day. Some video games also have Bao featured. Surprisingly his fame is not limited to Chinese grounds — even French and Japanese comic books inspired by the story of Bao have been published! In other Asian countries such as the Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore, there are also temples featuring Bao Gong.

In fiction, Bao Gong is portrayed with an iconic crescent moon symbol on his forehead and a dark-toned face, which surely reinforce Bao's personality — the crescent moon is a symbol of righteousness and purity, while the darker skin tones create a mighty, literally 'iron-faced' look, especially in traditional opera. Moreover, he is often advised by the clever Gongsun Ce and assisted by the Four Constables, namely Wang Chao, Ma Han, Zhang Long and Zhao Hu. In these stories Bao is also accompanied by Zhan Zhao, a knight-errant accomplished in the martial arts. He often assists Bao in upholding justice.

For those who wish to pay their respects to Bao, the Bao Gong Temple in Kaifeng is a place for pilgrimage. Constructed to commemorate Bao, his stories, relics, related historical artworks, modern wax figures and family tree are all displayed inside the temple. There is also a famous well that was said to have been dug up by Bao himself. Later, people built a pavilion over it and named the well 'Lian Quan', which can be translated to 'Spring of Incorruption'. It was rumoured that while the upright could use the water there to quench thirst, corrupt or dishonorable people would get headaches or discomfort in the abdomen after drinking from it.

Other highlights of the temple are the dragon-headed, tiger-headed, and dog-headed guillotines. Although some say that it was impossible for such equipment to have existed in Bao's time, they are still an interesting association with Bao in folklore. It was said that the guillotines were used for beheading people of different classes. The dragon-headed guillotine for the emperor and royalty was the bluntest; it was followed by the tiger-headed guillotine, for officials, and lastly, the dog-headed one for the commoners was the sharpest. A blunt guillotine allowed a more painful death compared to a sharp guillotine, and those of a higher class received this punishment because they should have been role models to the citizens, instead of committing crimes, as the ruler. The Bao family motto, authored by Bao himself, is also shown in the temple, in which he says any of his descendants who are corrupt officials will not be allowed to return to their homes, or buried in the family graves. This piece of writing alone can fully demonstrate his strict moral standards and nobility.

15th February in the Chinese lunar year is the birthday of Bao Gong, and in Chinese traditions there is a festival that celebrates it. Sadly, it is only practised in a few places nowadays. For example, in Macau, there are a variety of celebration activities, in particular in the Bao Gong Temple. In this temple, there are a lot of festive decorations and even lion dances to honor Bao on the special day. At the same time, in Zhaoqing, aside from martial art and opera performances, elders wear traditional Chinese garments called Xuanduan to carry out a ceremony for Bao. Due to Bao's reputation as an impartial judge and his opening of the first government-run school in Lingnam, some Taoists said that he was Wen Quxing, a constellation commonly associated with literature and talent, descended to the Earth. This image was also promoted in the ancient novel *Outlaws of the Marsh*. As a result, he was often given paper, ink, pens and ink stones as offerings. The statue of Bao Gong is also paraded to exorcise spirits and pray for prosperity.

After more than thirty generations, part of Bao's bloodline has survived in the mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Sir Yue-Kong Pao and Pao Pui-Hing were both descendants of Bao and active philanthropists in Hong Kong. They are recognized for their contributions to society, such as promotion of education and welfare, and are well-known figures in the public.

Finally, as both a historical and fictional character, Bao's representation of justice and a lawful rule is undeniable. Clean, clever, and filial, he serves as an excellent example of a decent and principled man, and nearly a thousand years after his death, he is still a much respected and reputable figure. As tribute to his efforts, we should also uphold justice and the spirit of fairness and anti-corruption just like he once did — and perhaps we might even earn a lucky smile from the iron-faced judge in the underworld!

The Righteous and Heroic Judge

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Chan, Yuen Kiu – 13

For the poor, no happy life they longed for,
suffered from deprivation and hunger,
Till the best judge ever appeared,
Peace was restored at last.

Judge Pao, renowned as China's Sherlock Holmes, represents justice, wisdom and honesty, righteous figures, the hero of his own people.

In the past few months, long did I have the time to read some novels about Chinese history. Having a relaxing but a rather boring life at home due to the pandemic, reading books was the oasis of my boring life, giving me inspiring nourishments for my body and soul. Once I read a book about Judge Pao, I immediately became interested in him. Thus, I searched for loads of information and learnt more about him.

He is also known as Pao Zheng. He was born in Shenxian, Hefei, Luzhou. With his appearance, a black face with a white crescent moon, he judged with laws and upheld justice. Working as a Chinese politician during Emperor Renzong in China's Song Dynasty, he served as this official position for 25 years. From this point of view, he must have judged many cases. I searched on the Internet and found the case that I felt the most interested in.

The case I am most interested in is "The Case Of Executing Chen Shimei". There was a man who was called Chen Shimei who had two children with his wife Qin Xianlian, when he left them behind in his hometown for the Imperial examination in the capital. After becoming the first, he lied that he was single and became the emperor's brother-in-law. Years later, a destructive famine forced Qin and her children to move to the capital, then they learnt what happened to Chen there from the locals. Qin finally found a way to meet Chen, begging him to at least help their children for survival and peaceful childhood. Not only did Chen refuse, he also sent his servant to kill them in order to hide his secret, but the servant helped the family escape and committed suicide. Desperately, Qin brought her case to Pao Zheng, who then tricked Chen to the court and had him arrested. The imperial family intervened with threats, but Pao executed him nonetheless with no fear at all. This manifested his wisdom of being a just judge who had no fear of anything.

The renowned Judge Pao was born in Shenxian, Hefei, Luzhou, he grew up in a wealthy family. Since his father was a close friend of the local county magistrature, he became interested in judging cases, which eventually allowed him to unleash his talent in reasoning and judgement. In the year 1027, He passed the highest level imperial examination and obtained the title of Jinshi which qualified him to become a government official eventually. However, he had to take care of his aging parents, so he didn't turn to officialdom until 1037. It shows that he was a very filial person. When he served as the Magistrature of Kaifeng, the capital of the Song Dynasty, he fought against corruption in both provincial and central administrative offices and punished the wrongdoers from different social classes, including the closest relatives of the emperor and some of his own relatives. Again, with no fear in his heart, he upheld the justice for the rich as well as for the poor. Due to his popularity and righteous, he was granted a golden rod and imperial sword by the previous emperor, and all these endowed him with the authority to punish the incumbent emperor and execute convicted criminals without prior approval from the emperor. More, he was also given three knives from the emperor to execute criminals, one with a dog's head for commoners, one with a tiger's head for government officials and one with a dragon's head for nobles. This also shows that he was very much influential and powerful at that time. Sadly, Judge Pao died in 1068 at the young age of 69 years old.

Apart from his usual duties, Judge Pao had his merits and achievements as well. According to the historical records, he had submitted at least 13 remonstrances to the Emperor on military, taxation, examination system, governmental dishonesty and incompetence. He also defended peasants and commoners against the unjust, corruption or injustice of that time.

As a student, I learn about Pao Zheng in the novel, *The Judge Pao Cases*. Then, I watched some TV programmes in order to get to know more about him. For example, the TV programmes such as *Justice Pao*, a series produced by CTS TV in 1970s. I also watched *Young Justice Pao*, a series produced by SBC (now Mediacorp), starring Chew Chor Meng as young Pao Zheng in 1994. All these books and programmes are indeed the treasure of Chinese History and the documentaries about this famous judge.

Though young as I am, it is time for me to learn from him, the way he is so serious about his work, his love for the people and his righteousness. Nowadays, Judge Pao is praised as a symbol of justice. In the hearts of many, he is undoubtedly a true-born leader and his legends will be told from generations to generations.

The Legend, the Hero, the Judge

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Unlike the other children in most ordinary families, Pao was a gifted child and he studied very hard. In 1027, at the age of 29, he passed the highest-level imperial examination and obtained the title of Jinshi, which qualified him to become a government official. Pao was appointed as a magistrate of Jianchang County, but he only started his official

career for a decade later in order to take care of his aging parents and observe all the mourning rituals. For this, Pao Zheng had earned a good reputation for his filial piety.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Legend of Judge Pao

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Suen, Cheuk Laam – 12

When the whole world was blanketed in sadness of the pandemic, many of us had no choice but to stay home for our learning and work. During these days, I started watching a lot of shows about Judge Pao because my grandma always tells me about how amazing and interesting they are, and she was so right about all that.

Judge Pao, also known as Justice Pao was born in 5th March 999. He was born in a scholar family in Shenxian. His family was in the middle class since his father Pao Lingyi was a scholar and official, and because of that he can go to school but he still have to work in the lower class, this made him understood about people's hardship, so he hated corruption and determined to uphold the justice, so he worked and study very hard to become a Jinshi to bring justice to the innocent and poor.

When Judge Pao was 29, he passed through the imperial examination and became a Jinshi. It is extremely hard because there are numerous people in the examination but sadly he had to defer embarking on his official duties to take care of his parents since Chinese people always put their parents above their career. During that time, he became great friends with Liu Yun, the Magistrate of Luzhou. Liu Yun was known for being an excellent poetic and a fair-minded officer. You can see that Judge Pao is very influenced by him.

After the passing of Pao's parents. He was appointed magistrate of Tianchange county at the age of 39. It is the first time that Pao was known as an astute judge. Then he was promoted as a Duanzhou in south due to his excellent performance. Duanzhou is a city that is famous for It is fine ink stone, a stone that is used for making ink because of that, a certain amount of ink stone had to be sent to the imperial court.

In the days of him being a Duanzhou, he found that the previous prefects had collected seven dozen times more ink stone from manufacturers than required quota. When his tenure was up in 1043, Pao left without a single ink stone in his possession, so he wrote this poem about it.

Pao returned to the capital in 1044 and was named as an investigating censor for two years. In those two years of being in that position, Pao had submitted more than 13 memoranda to Emperor Renzong of Song, revealing the dishonesty and incompetence in various government departments including: military, taxation, the examination system, etc.

In 1057, Pao was appointed as the magistrate of the capital city of Bianfor for a year, even though It is only a year, he had accomplished several achievements, for example: allowing the citizens to directly lodge complaints to the city administration.

Judge Pao had also been the minister of finance after he had been the magistrate of Bianfor. Pao had two wives in his family, including Lady Zhang and Lady Dong. He had one son called Pao Yi who was born in 1033, and tragically, Pao Yi died at a very young age, so as his son Pao Wenfu who died at 5 Pao Yi was a government officer, he also had two daughters with Lady Dong. Pao's wife Lady Cui was praised for her devotion to the protection of her family because once was a young maid who got pregnant in Judge Pao's family, after knowing that the girl got pregnant by having her father-in-law child, Lady Cui continued to send money and clothing to her home. The child that the maid gave birth to was named Pao Ya, Lady Cui secretly brought him to her house and fostered him. At the same year Lady Cui brought Pao Ya back to his own father, thus enabling the continuation of Pao's family tree.

Though Judge Pao had a high rank in the government, he had never lived a luxurious life. Instead, he was poor. In 1062, the most respectable Judge Pao tragically passed away in the Capital City of Kaifeng due to poisoning. Then, Pao was buried in Daxingji in 1063. Even though Judge Pao had died, he was still influencing people with his famous cases, for example the case of the executing Chen Shimei.

The case of the executing Chen Shimei is one of the most famous case in Judge Pao's career. Judge Pao executed him even though the imperial family intervened him with threats. This case had been retold in Chinese opera because of how interesting it is, and I will recommend it to you if you are interested in Chinese opera. Due to his righteous and wisdom, Judge Pao, the name is not only famous buy it carries the meaning of justice and fairness. He also had a huge impact on Chinese opera and movies. From his story, we learn to be a good person like how Judge Pao is.

Judge Pao has been influencing us till this day in movies, books even on TV shows. I think that all of us should learn from his life and to be a person who is as gracious as him. I also learnt to work hard for my dreams like young Judge Pao. We are quite sure his legend will go on.

The Mighty Judge Pao Cheng and His Legend

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Tang, Nok Yi – 13

One day I had my Chinese History lesson as usual. I am not quite interested in Chinese History. However, my teacher talked about a legendary person whom I had great interest in. He described the person having a black face with a white crescent-shaped birthmark on his forehead; he was a well-known official and judge in the Northern Song Dynasty.

You may wonder who he is, some non-Chinese people may have not known about him. He is Pao Cheng, who is also known as Judge Pao. He is the symbol of justice and righteousness. He fought against the unfairness in the society and in the governmental bodies. If people ask why he is so popular, I believe it is because he used his talent and his strength to counter the corruption.

In the Northern Song Dynasty, the society was corrupt. People were in severe poverty. Citizens paid money to tackle the daily troubles and difficulty. However, due to corruption, most of their money was taken by landlords. They often did not have enough money to save themselves from trouble. The citizens began to find Pao Cheng to resolve the unfairness and the unjust. Pao Cheng alternatively was willing and selfless to help the citizens. It is the reason that I would like to learn more about him. Therefore I watched a film about him. It talks about the career and influence of Pao Cheng. His personality and achievements inspire many people.

According to Chinese history, the country finance could reimburse the money of county finance which can be paid by the civil servant. Therefore, the public finance of each county could be repaired. However, some civil servants reimbursed the money for everything as they could not get the power that they wanted in reality. At the time, not only a few civil servants would do this, actually all civil servants would do this. This may have caused the corruption in the society at the end of the Northern Song Dynasty. At that time, there were many people who were in poverty, and there usually was unfair treatment. Therefore, Pao Cheng fought against those civil servants who were going to get the money from the government. You may wonder why Pao Cheng would fight against the corrupt. It is because of the influence of his family.

In 999 years, the beginning of Northern Song, our character Pao Cheng was born in a scholar family in Shenxian which is today's Hefei, Anhui Province in eastern China. Pao Cheng is known as Pao Gong, Lord Pao and Judge Pao.

Pao Cheng's family was in the middle class. His father was called Pao Lingyi who was a scholar and an official. Pao Cheng's grandfather was a commoner, and he was called Pao Shi Tong. Pao Cheng was a gifted child and he studied very hard. Since his father was a close friend of the local county magistrate, he became interested in trying cases and showed his talent in reasoning and judgment. As Pao Cheng grew up among the low working class, he well understood people's hardships, hated corruption and strongly desired for justice.

Pao Cheng had two wives, Lady Zhang and Lady Dong. He had one son Pao Yi (1033–1053) who was born in 1033, and two daughters with Lady Dong. Pao Yi and his wife Lady Cui had a son called Pao Wenfu. However, Pao Wenfu died prematurely when he was five years old. There was a Lady called Lady Sun who in Pao Cheng's family became pregnant but Pao Cheng dismissed her back to her hometown. Lady Cui knew the baby was the father-in-law's baby. Therefore, she gave money and clothes to Lady Sun. When the baby was born, she brought him to her house to foster him. This enabled the continuation of Pao Cheng's family line, and the baby was renamed Pao Shou by Pao Cheng and his wife.

In 1027, Pao passed the highest-level imperial examination and became qualified as a Jinshi. At the same time, he obtained the title of Jinshi and “sit presented scholar,” and he was appointed as magistrate of Jianchang County. However, he needed to take care of his aging parents. He did not begin his career in officialdom until 10 years later, after his parents died and he had properly observed all the mourning rituals. For this, Pao earned a high reputation for his filial piety

During the time Pao Cheng looked after his parents at home, Liu Yun, Magistrate of Luzhou who was renowned as an excellent poetic and fair-minded official, usually visited Pao. As the two got along well, Pao obtained great influence from Liu Yun in respect of love for people.

After 10 years of being a filial son, 39 years old Pao Cheng served as the magistrate of Kaifeng, and the capital of the Song Dynasty. He fought against corruption in both provincial and central administrative offices. He punished wrongdoers from all levels of society, including the closest relatives of the emperor himself. Once, a man reported his ox's tongue had been sliced out. Pao Cheng told him to return and slaughter the ox for sale. Soon another man arrived in court and accused the first man of privately slaughtering a “best of burden”, an offense punishable by a year of penal servitude. Pao Cheng bellowed ‘Why did you cut his ox's tongue and then accuse him?’ In shock, the culprit had confessed.

In 1044, Pao Cheng returned to the capital and was named an investigating censor. In the next two years, he had submitted at least 13 memoranda to Emperor Renzong of Song on military, taxation, the examination system, and governmental dishonesty and incompetence.

In 1045, Pao Cheng was sent to the Liao Dynasty as a messenger. During an audience, a Liao official accused the Song of violating the peace by installing a secret side door in the border prefecture of Xiangzhou. Therefore, as it solicits defectors from Liao for intelligence. Pao Cheng retorted” Why is a side door required for intelligence?” The Liao subject could not respond. In the following year, Pao Cheng was Fiscal commissioner of Hebei, Vice Director of the Ministry of Justice, Auxiliary in the Academy of Scholarly Worthies and Vice Commissioner of the Ministry of Revenue.

Pao Cheng was granted a golden rod and an imperial sword by the previous emperor which gave him the authority to punish the incumbent emperor and exec.

He had also been given three knives from the emperor to execute criminals, one decorated with a dog's head for commoners, one with a tiger's head for government officials and one with a dragon's head for nobles.

In 1068, our hero Pao Cheng died. He was 69 years old when he died. He died in the capital city of Kaifeng where present day Kaifeng, Henan. Pao Cheng was buried in Dacingji, his tomb was rebuilt by officials of the Huaixi Road in 1066. His wife was buried next to him.

After Pao Cheng passed away, all of his sons passed imperial court examinations and became officials. They all mirrored Pao Cheng's virtues, and were praised by people as upright officials.

Pao Cheng was a strict person, he didn't want his family members to be corrupt. He once warned his family that “Any of my descendants who commits bribery as an official shall not be allowed back home nor buried in the family burial site. He who shares my values is not my descendant.” Moreover, he saved and helped many citizens. In the end of Northern Song, as we know there were many officials who were corrupt. Therefore, the citizens could not get fair treatment, and they might live harder than we think. Pao Cheng fought against the corrupt that may help the citizens to get a fair treatment, to live better.

In present days, injustice keeps appearing in different levels of the society. People hope for a person who can be an unbiased judge and resolve corruption like Pao Cheng. Despite the long period of time and history, Pao Cheng is still praised by modern people.

An upright, selfless and impartial person, Pao Cheng. His story will be spread forever. When people talk about a righteous person, they will think about our hero Pao Cheng.

My Great Model and the Committed Judge – Pao Cheng

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In legends, the character Judge Pao solved a lot of well-known cases. A famous one is 'The Case of Executing Chen Shimei'. It is about a man named Chen Shimei who placed first in the imperial examination and had a marriage with the princess who allow him to be the brother-in-law of the emperor. However, he had his own family, a wife and two children, which he concealed to the emperor. Years later, Qin Xianglian, the wife of Chen

Shimei, and her children were forced to move away by a famine. They moved to the capital and found out what happened to Chen. Qin asked for his help to take care of their children but he refused to take up any responsibilities. After that, to avoid his secret being revealed, Chen sent his servant to kill his own family. However, his servant helped the whole family escape. Then, Qin brought the case to Judge Pao. Pao tried the case and Chen finally received a heavy sentence, which was an execution in spite of pressures and threats from the imperial family. It showed that Judge Pao had no fear of the powerful authorities at that time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Judge Pao, a Hero of All Times

Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Zhao, Kangru Carol – 13

A guardian for the commoners, the heroic case-solver.
A face shines in the dark, Illuminating the heart of every villager.
No more injustice, no more deception
But a good leader who fears no one.

The iconic and righteous Judge Pao, the Chinese Sherlock Holmes, is also considered as a true hero for many families and citizens whom he helped during his twenty-five years of civil service. As an icon striving for equality amongst the wealthy and the under-privileged, he vowed to never let anyone down with his enacted judgement.

During the pandemic, I had nowhere to go but to get stranded at home for such a long time, so I entertained myself by watching various Chinese historical TV shows and documentaries to have a better understanding of Chinese culture. That's when I stumbled upon a TV programme called Judge Pao. In the programme, Judge Pao was portrayed wearing a judge's zhan jiao futon hat, having his dark-complexioned face and black, and bushy beard is the most outstanding feature of him. Moreover, the white crescent-shaped birthmark protruding on his forehead is definitely his unique symbol.

Some people may ask, "Who is Judge Pao? What was his early life like? What role did he play in the court during his years of service? And more importantly, what was the influence that he brought?" My curiosity and respect towards him inspired me to watch the drama and do some additional research, and the mysteries were then unveiled eventually one by one. The stories of different Judge Pao's cases were so vivid that I enjoyed studying every one of them.

Pao Zheng (999–1068), also widely known as Pao Gong or Judge Pao, was a Chinese politician during the reign of Emperor Renzong in China's Song Dynasty. He has also earned himself the honorable title of Justice Pao during his years in the office due to his righteous and honest discretion which offered fairness to the poor ones who came for his help.

During Year 999, Pao Zheng was born in a scholar family in Shenxian (which is in today's Hefei, Anhui Province in eastern China.) His father, Pao Lingyi, was a scholar and an official, while his grandfather, Pao Shi Tong, was a commoner. Though Pao's family was middle class and could afford to send him to school, life wasn't easy for them at all. According to some stories, Pao's mother had to collect firewood for the family despite the fact that she's just about to give birth to Bao.

Since Pao had an ordinary upbringing, he understood people's hardship and how the poor was suppressed by the upper class, and thus, he was determined to fight against corruption and stand up for the oppressed.

As a child growing up with extraordinary talent, Pao was a gifted child who manifested uncommon intelligence beyond his age. He didn't let his talent be wasted, on the contrary, he studied extremely hard to pursue his career. As his father was a close friend of the local country's magistrate at that time, Bao invested into deciphering cases and he later discovered the talent he had in reasoning and judgment. This laid the foundation for the prosperity of the dynasty.

During 1027, when Pao was 29, he passed the highest-level imperial examination, and thus he was awarded the title, Jinshi, which was also known as "Sit Presented Scholar." This gave him the qualification of becoming a government official. As a result, Bao was appointed as magistrate of Jianchang County.

After receiving the appointment, many new officials might be thrilled to pursue their career right away, however, Pao chose to postpone his career in the court for over a decade in order to take good care of his aged and sick parents. According to the historical record, he was a good son who observed the mourning rites after his parents' death. The act of filial piety he paid to his parents earned Pao a high reputation and appreciation among the villagers.

In 1037, after 10 years, Pao finally returned to the imperial administration and served as the magistrate of Kaifeng, capital of the Song Dynasty. It was there that Pao first established a reputation as an astute judge. He punished wrongdoers from different classes of the society, including sentencing his own uncle to death for the crime he committed.

The imperial family, in order to show their respect towards Pao, the previous emperor of the Song Dynasty granted him a golden rod and an imperial sword to give him the authority to punish the incumbent emperor and execute convicted criminals without prior approval when necessary.

In 1062, the people remembered this renowned judge as Pao ended his civil service with his demise, in the Capital City of Kaifeng (present day Henan), at the age of 69. When he was alive or even after his death, he was very much well-respected and admired by the people of the county he served. A hero in their eyes, a hero forever.

To commemorate this great judge, in 1985, the Pao Gong Cemetery was reconstructed beside the Pao Gong Temple in Hefei, in the forested area of Henan. The cemetery was later completed in 1987 to preserve the remains of Pao Zheng and the artefacts from former tombs of his. As the cemetery holds the exact place for Pao Zheng and his family remains, his descendants have been protecting it carefully and sincerely with respect to this day.

For most Chinese, however, would probably know Pao Zheng as the courtroom judge in popular Chinese dramas and fiction, but not as an administrative minister. This is because popular portrayals of Judge Pao, this historical figure, could be found in the detective novel, "Pao Gong An," written in the Ming Dynasty (1368 AD–1644 AD) and the novel "Seven Heroes and Five Gallants," originating in the Qing Dynasty (1644 AD–1911 AD). Furthermore, Pao Zheng's stories were preciously retold and preserved from generation to generation, particularly in the form of performing arts like Chinese Opera and more.

As a student, I know that Pao Zheng is most famous for his uncompromising stance against corruption among the government officials at that time. We all admire his courage and intelligence in doing his job. He upheld justice, making him extremely popular in China, especially among the peasants and the poor. He became an iconic feature in literature and modern Chinese TV series in which his adventures and cases are retold again and again and have become the best bedtime stories ever.

Undoubtedly, Judge Pao will always remain a legend in the hearts of all of us but also in the hearts of others all around the world who have read about his stories. Let us not to forget Judge Pao but to keep learning from his good deeds from today onwards. Then, we can make contributions to our county and to be a role model to the next generation.

Judge Pao

Korean International School, Ku, Chun Hang Jaydon – 11

Judge Pao or Justice Pao was a famous Judge and was one of the founders of the island that we live in right now Hong Kong.

Who was Judge Pao?

Commonly known as Bao Zheng, he was a Chinese politician at the time of the Song dynasty. During his time working for the civil services he demonstrated to be honest and cheerful to be around, though he was honest and cheerful he was also hard working and this would grant him respect later in his years. In fact he was so loyal to his job that he sentenced his own uncle for his sinful and misdeeds.

What and who is he now?

Due to his ability to defend peasants, commoners against corruption or injustice and initiated a number of changes to better hear the complaints from the people and in turn made him the legendary figure he is now. 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 beginning with “*The Seven Heroes and Five Gallants*”, and have sustained popularity till now. In Chinese mythology, he is often portrayed wearing a judge's zhan jiao Futou hat and a crescent moon on his forehead. Some Chinese provinces later deified Judge Bao, associating him to the compassionate war god Guan Gong.

Early life of Judge Pao

Bao's family was in the middle class, his father Bao Lingyi was a scholar while his grandfather Bao Shi Tong was a commoner. Though Bao's parents could afford to send him to school, his mother had to climb up mountains to collect firewood just before she gave birth to him. As Bao grew up amongst the low working classes, he had well understood the commoner's hardships and hated the corrupted rich and strongly desired for justice. At the age of 29 Bao became a Jin Shi passing the highest level examination, Bao was appointed as magistrate of Jianchang County, but had to postpone embarking on his official career for a decade due to having to take care of his elderly parents and then faithfully and mournfully observing their passing ceremony.

The Prefect of Duanzhou

In 1040, Bao Zheng was promoted to the prefect of Duanzhou, a position famous for its high-quality inkstones, a certain number of which were presented annually to the imperial court. However, Bao discovered that previous prefects had collected far more inkstones from manufacturers than the required tribute and several dozens times more in order to bribe influential ministers with the extras. Bao put an end to the practice by telling manufacturers to fill only the required amount.

Bao Zheng's Family

Bao Zheng had two wives, Lady Zhang and Lady Dong. Bao had one son named Bao Yi and was born 1033 and had two daughters with Lady Dong. His only son Bao Yi died in 1053 at a relatively young age while being a

government officer, two years after his marriage to Lady Cui. Bao Yi's son, Bao Wenfu , died prematurely at the age of five.

However, when a young maid called Lady Sun in Bao Zheng's family became pregnant, Bao dismissed her back to her birthplace. Lady Cui, Bao Yi's wife, knew that the maid was pregnant with her father-in-law's child but still continued to send money and clothing to her home. Upon 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 brought him back to his biological father, thus enabling the continuation of Bao's family line. Bao Zheng and his wife rejoiced, and they renamed their new son to Bao Shou.

Bao and his Wife's Deaths

Bao died in the Capital City of Kaifeng in 1062. It was recorded that he left the following warning for his family saying: "If any of my descendants who commits bribery (crime) as an official shall not be allowed back home nor buried in the family burial site. He who shares not my values is not my descendant. Bao was buried in Daxingji in 1063. His tomb was rebuilt by officials of the Huaxi Road in 1066 and when Lady Dong died in 1068, she was buried right next to him in his tomb. The Bao Gong Cemetery was reconstructed next to the Bao Gong Temple in Hefei in the forested area of Henan in 1985 and was completed in two years time and to preserve the remains of Bao Zheng and artifacts from the former tombs. As for the exact location for the rest of Bao Zheng and his family remains a secret.

My favorite case of Bao

When Bao Zheng was an infant, he was raised by his elder sister-in-law, Wu and was treated like her own son. Years later, Wu's only son Bao Mian became a magistrate, and was convicted for bribery and malfeasance. Finding it impossible to fulfill both Confucian concepts of loyalty and filial piety, an emotional Bao Zheng was about to reluctantly execute his nephew. In the end, the real suspects were forced to confess and Bao Mian's sentence was commuted.

Tales of Judge Pao

Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Mak, Chun Ho – 14

Nine-hundred and ninety-nine AD, Hefei, Luzhou, now present day Feidong County. A baby, fresh from his mother's womb, lay wailing on the bed. His parents picked him up tenderly, not knowing what kind of future awaited him. One that was of justice, law, and as a worldwide phenom almost ten decades later...

Born into a scholar family, the man who is now known as Judge Pao, was also known as Bao Zheng, his birth name. Both fortunate enough to have sufficient resources provided by his middle-class family to go to school but yet unfortunate enough to have to endure a lower-class standard of living, he grew up amongst the lowest of the working class. Interacting with them daily, feelings of sympathy and empathy soon developed within him, and noticing that they were somewhat segregated and mistreated by the rest of society, a sense of justice soon emerged. Despising all the corruption and understanding the hardships and from that, he worked even harder to achieve his aspiration of passing the highest level of imperial examination, hence starting the journey of one of the world's greatest judges.

At the young age of twenty-nine, the young Bao soon progressed and further qualified as a Jinshi, the final and highest degree of in the imperial examination of China, better known as an imperial scholar. Eventually, he was appointed as magistrate, which was an imperial official in charge of a county, of Jianchang County, but soon decided to undertake his official career a decade later, in order to care for his ageing parents. After their passing, at the age of thirty-nine, he was then appointed as the magistrate of Tianchang County. It is a fact that Bao started his famous campaign as a sharp-witted judge. One of the most known and popularised stories of Bao was said to have originated from here. Based on a Chinese anecdote, the story was said to have been along the lines of a man approaching Bao, stating that his ox's tongue had been cut out. In response, Bao told him to return to his cow, slaughter it, and put it on sale. A few days later, another man approached Bao and proclaimed that the first man had privately slaughtered his cow, accusing him of an offence punishable by a year of penal servitude. However, Bao instead responded with, "Why did you cut his ox's tongue and then accuse him?". Shocked, the perpetrator had no choice but to confess to committing the crime.

From then on, word continued spreading about this genius and shrewd thinker of a judge. Bao continued moving from place to place, being promoted to become the prefect of Duanzhou. During that time period, there was an example of him preventing the corruption that he expressed his detest for. Duanzhou was a prefecture famous for its extremely high-quality inkstones, which is a stone mortar used for grinding and containment of ink, still widely used nowadays, however it was highly coveted back then. Bao's task was to return with inkstones of a certain number and present them to the imperial court. However, Bao soon realised the previous prefects of Duanzhou collected far more inkstones than the required amount, as the extra was soon used to bribe influential ministers with the extras. In order to prevent this from happening once more, Bao abolished the practice by telling manufacturers to only provide the necessary amount. Due to his honesty and integrity, after leaving Duanzhou, he never had a spare inkstone in his possession, not one, not two, keeping true to his word.

In a few years, Bao returned to the capital and was named an investigating censor in 1044. He was also soon promoted to become an imperial censor. During his years in the government, Bao had thirty high officials demoted for corruption, bribery and dishonesty. These would also soon be the last years of his life. From the year 1057, he was appointed as the prefect of Kaifeng. Although only holding the position for one year, his impact was widely felt, once again due to the multitude of cases he tackled and solved.

Finally, at the age of sixty-three, Bao passed away, in the capital city, at the time, of Kaifeng. It was stated that he left a warning to his family: "Any of my descendants who commits bribery as an official shall not be allowed back home nor buried in the family burial site. He who shares not my values is not my descendant".

An interesting story that concerns his bloodline is the fact that the first of Bao's children, Bao Yi, died at a relatively young age of twenty after being married two years. Bao Yi's son, Bao Wenfu, died prematurely at the age of five. However, a young maid, known as Lady Sun, in Bao's family became pregnant, Bao then dismissed her to her hometown. After hearing the news, Bao Yi's wife, Lady Cui, knew that the maid was pregnant with Bao's child. Hence, she continued to provide resources and clothing to the maid's home. Soon, Lady Sun gave birth to a child named Bao Yan, who then was brought back to Bao and his wife a year later by Lady Cui. They rejoiced, as this enabled Bao's family line to continue on. They then renamed their child from Bao Yan to Bao Shou. With this incident, Lady Cui was highly credited to the conservation of the Bao family, who has since then now settled in Hong Kong.

The great Bao Zheng, also known as "Justice Bao", lived a successful and noble life. If he had seen how much his life, his story impacted everyone, he definitely would have been satisfied. And he surely, unquestionably, has had one of the largest impacts on the world, and its storytelling.

The Immortal Judge

St. Joseph's College, Siu, Chung Hung Yeung Aston – 14

The legacy of Judge Pao is undoubtedly one of the greatest symbols of Justice within the history of ancient China. During his lifetime, Pao was known for his righteousness & undying strive for justice, such that he dared to scold the ancient Chinese emperor directly, something that would normally result in certain death. For over a millennium, Judge Pao's story left all of us flabbergasted by his courage, wit, & modesty, earning the name: China's Sherlock Holmes.

The tales of Judge Pao has been going on for a thousand years, many books, TV shows, & films were made in his name, to honour him as a witty & dauntless defender of justice. He was often compared to the great detective Sherlock Holmes, hence the title above, however, unlike Sherlock, he served as a judge rather than a detective. Stories of Judge Pao often revolves more around his attitude towards justice & his unwavering loyalty to morals, whereas the stories of Sherlock Holmes puts a spotlight on “whodunit” rather than the topics of justice. In this essay, we'll go on a journey through history, regarding his great detective works, heritage, & controversies within. But before we dive deeper into the tales of Judge Pao, we first have to discover his roots, & to witness history with our own perspective.

Judge Pao was born in ancient China in 999 A.D. during the Northern Song Dynasty. Like many historical greats, Pao came from a humble background. His father was a scholar & government official, & his family was considered in the lower end of the middle class. Since Pao was from a working class family, he deeply understood people's hardships & social issues from a young age. Pao saw the corruption in high levels of the government, hence his strong desire for justice. At the age of 29, he passed the highest level of the Chinese Imperial Exam & became a Jinshi (進士). Relatively young to be holding this position, he became a magistrate of Duanzhou. As I've mentioned, Pao took justice very seriously, & not just according to law. He developed his own moral code & acted as a judge during his tenure, hence the name “Judge” Pao.

As his tales of justice continue to expand throughout the nation, Pao received praise & respect from his fellow officers, & was promoted to prefect level, then eventually, investigating censor. Pao was called to the palace because of his reputation of being an uncompromising judge, in addition to his work castigating wealthy imperial families. He “spoke truth to power”, & initiated reforms for justice of the people, not only the affluent. This led to him being given the honorific title of Bao Qingtian (包青天), signifying him as a person who brings justice to the people. As the stories of his miracles spread, people heard about his miraculous powers of detection. However, many of these stories turned out to be fictional, nonetheless, it is undeniable that Pao was an astonishing judge, who was courageous enough to impeach high ranking imperial officers, such as the emperor.

As a man of justice, Pao was distinguished from other law enforcement officers by his candor, simply put, he was not afraid to call out whatever immoral or stupid things anyone has done. He famously remonstrated the emperor during the Northern Song Dynasty, telling the emperor personally of what he did wrong. Although what he did could have gotten him executed for the slightest lack of disrespect, Pao stood by his moral code & what he said, not feared of the consequences he will face. On one occasion, the emperor was going to issue an amnesty to all criminals & promote all government officials. Nevertheless, Pao saw the wrong in this & conferred with the emperor directly. Fortunately, the emperor decided that his advisor was correct, & the bluntness in Pao continued to thrive & lived a life of open honesty.

During his lifetime, Pao demonstrated uncompromisable justice & unwavering loyalty to the truth. His esteemed investigative skills led him to be one of the most famous titles in Chinese history. With an undying legacy

of integrity & courage, Pao prosecuted thousands of criminals during his time, while also aiding thousands in their quest of innocence.

After his passing, Pao was named the immortal judge by historians & civilians alike. One of the main reasons Judge Pao was deemed the title was because of a common folklore, stating that he acts as a judge in a form of hell in ancient Chinese religion. According to the common myth, Pao ran the department named “The Infernal Bureaucracy”, acting as a deity judge to all those pass him. It is not common to see a regular mortal being escalated to such a position, reflecting his dignity & impact in terms of divine justice. The tales of Pao still live on today, with screenwriters & filmmakers grabbing every opportunity to bring the thousand year old judge to life.

With seemingly large sphere of influence even in modern days, one of the most eye catching things to discuss about Pao is his legacy. As I’ve mentioned above, Pao’s undying legacy continues to remain forceful through the centuries, with the spotlight shifting to Hong Kong. According to history, Hong Kong is the residing place of his descendants, which makes sense, as Hong Kong is the city where the Song Dynasty met its end. Hong Kong is known for its highly developed legal system, with separation of powers, & judicial independence. As the place where his legacy lies, I think Judge Pao would be proud of the legal system that his grandchildren would take part in, as well as one of the best crime fighting institutions in the world.

When I first sat down at my desk trying to muster all the little energy I have left to conjure this essay, I never thought I would discover someone with such righteousness. The new tales of Judge Pao gave me an opportunity to submerge myself into the legal system of ancient China, including its influence in Hong Kong today. The legacy of Judge Pao laid the foundation of many justice systems, & gives aspiring law officers a role model to look up to. While there is no way to decide whether the tales of his crime fighting stories are true or otherwise, its hard to not feel amazed by what Pao had done to ensure justice prevails, for whomever deserves it.

One of things Pao impressed me most was his candor, his courage, & although he is well aware of the potential aftermath, he never fails to let fear or glory take over him. From time to time, people will bring up some recent news article about some criminal cases & give their opinions about it. Judge Pao helped fostered an environment & culture where we dare to raise our voices when we feel there is injustice. His tales set a role model for how our judicial system continues to develop, to ensure that what he stood for still stands today. Together, we can too, foster a society where every man is bound by laws, to ensure liberty & equality, justice for all. At the end of the day, it is up to us to decide whether things are right or wrong. Wherever our opinions lie, I hope we can look back at our decision & affirm ourselves that we did the right thing, just like what he did in the new tales of Judge Pao.

Judge Pao

St. Margaret's Coeducational English Secondary and Primary School, Cheung, Man Kit – 13

Judge Pao, a determined judge, fearlessly challenged the corrupted officials and deal out justice. He is a symbol of justice, he hates corruption and 'spoke truth to power', insulting powerful imperial families and rich.

One of the pillars of his fame was the courage in remonstrating with anyone who did immoral or terrible things, including the emperor himself, who could have had him instantly executed for the slightest lack of respect.

On one occasion, the land was hit with huge floods. When the waters finally fall back, the grateful emperor decided to express his gratitude to the gods by issuing a blanket forgiveness to all criminals and promoting all civil and military officials.

Bao objected to the plan. Justice and meritocracy were too important to set aside in this way, he told the emperor. Acts of criminality must lead to punishment, and genuine acts of merit must be the only way to rise in government.

The emperor decided his advisor was correct. Other than living in a culture where thoughts expressed too honestly to people in power could cause disaster, Bao spoke his mind and continued to thrive.

Bao Zheng took on many different parts before he was promoted to the position of perfect of the Song capital, Kaifeng, and enjoyed a reputation as fair and virtuous judge after his appointments. Although it seems to be just another long and impressive resume of a successful public servant, Bao Zheng became an exceptional character as his cases evolved into many legendary acts of justice, such as accusing an uncle of Emperor Renzong's favorite concubine, punishing powerful corrupted families and even sentencing his own uncle. Not only moving within the circles of the rich and powerful, Bao Zheng was also known to have initiated many legal reforms to better address the grievances of the people.

As a judge, Pao was said to have tried cases with integrity, firmness in law enforcement and impartiality. For examples, he allowed people with little education to make complaints orally without having to complete paperwork. In this way, they could avoid injustices exerted by some officials who would offer to represent them at high cost.

In his lifetime, Pao fulfilled his task as a senior Chinese official until he was old. He did not leave a lot of property like other officials of the time, and instead only owned a plot of land about two hectares where he build a guesthouse for his old age.

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Ge, Ashley – 14

Good morning to my fellow listeners, I am judge Pao. Today all of you are here to talk about a serious problem: Climate Change. It is happening in our lives, but we don't even pay attention to it. According to research, with every increase of 1.5°C in temperature, 4% of mammals lose their habitat. With only 3°C of temperature increase, which seems small, 41% of mammals lose their habitat, that is almost half of the entire mammal population. Live coral reefs have decreased by half already, and with only a 2°C of temperature increase, 99% of coral reefs will disappear. Up to one million species are facing the problem of extinction and animals becoming extinct in no time is highly possible. Due to climate change, animals are forced to move away from where they are used to be at and more towards higher altitudes or towards the north and south poles so it's colder. This migration shifts the settlements of animals and viruses and even humans. Even human health can be affected by the reduce of parts of the ecosystem and the spread of viruses. Who is it to blame for climate change though? The main cause of climate change is large companies or industries that produce large amounts of greenhouse gases and smoke. Around 25% of emissions in the world come from factories. 1/3 of deaths from stroke, lung cancer, and heart disease are caused by smoke emissions from factories, just imagine all these poor people who must suffer through all the mess they made. I would not severely punish these people, because as someone that judges fairly, I believe that this is not completely their fault. However, this should be changed. For reducing climate change, a set of new policies should be brought out. We would be investing more money for the use and development of renewable resources like solar and wind energy. Some countries have already set up quotas or objectives to improve the situation. The Kyoto Protocol aims to reduce greenhouse gases to at least 5% below the 1990 level. Countries like Norway is already committing to this objective and agrees that their greenhouse emission level during 2008–2012 will not be more than 1% higher than the 1990 level. This is working quite effectively for countries based on feedback. For those of you from large industries listening to this right now, my plan is to come up with an objective. Our quota for this year is to emit less than we have before. By doing so, we can limit the emissions each year bit by bit and contribute to the reducing of climate change. We can decrease the use of plastic packaging and replace them with recyclable materials, and instead of burning fossil fuels, the government will contribute for investing in renewable resources, but you are responsible for making it happen. There would be no punishments, but the effects of climate change are on yourselves. Make a change, if you want to save yourself, first contribute to saving the environment. The whole world would be shining just like the stars in the night sky. Brightness would return to us. Thank you.

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Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Ghesquiere, Naele – 14

Climate change is making an enormous change in our lives. This year, it was 28 to 30 degrees Celsius in Shanghai in September, according to weatherspark.com, in 2021 September, it was 18 to 21 degrees. As you can see, there was a 27% increase in the temperature. This change in our lives affects not only humans on this very planet, but the wildlife, and biodiversity.

Firstly, global warming is happening due to human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels, which also increases heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. China is one of the biggest threats to global warming as it has many hazardous factories, which pollute the air and dramatically changes the climate. Fortunately, China is trying to control this problem to help the world.

In addition to pollution, global warming causes droughts and cyclones that are gradually destroying biodiversity. In Australia, there is an example of a disaster caused by global warming. According to BBC.com, in 2013, there was a very big heat wave that made the temperature reach 44 degrees Celsius in Bairnsdale, Victoria, Australia. The drought killed all trees in the area which later became a desert with only a little number of animals living there.

The most important action, in this case, is to reduce pollution, burn fossil fuels more carefully, and develop new energy sources. One of those new sources could be clean coal. A good example would be the Shanghai Tower which burns clean coal and produces little air pollution. Another way is to have a nationwide road network that allows gas-powered automobiles to connect all cities by a two-lane highway system or better. That would allow easy connection between cities, and prevent the pollution caused by cars and trucks on city streets. Another way is to develop wind power farms in China, which could replace many fossil fuel plants and reduce energy costs. In addition, it would be straightforward to build a wind farm in China because it has many deserts. That would generate more electricity than most other countries.

Even though some refuse to think that this horrible, torturing, and tormented situation is essential, I, Judge Pao, believe that everyone who refuses to have allow any of these new sources built should be punished, and do community service, to help this world! If you think that you can't do anything to help, you are wrong! You could try recycling your trash and buying more organic products. With these solutions, we can make this earth a better place!
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Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Hu, Grace – 14

Greetings to you all. I'm Judge Pao and I am here to announce the verdict for the cause of climate change. That, the verdict, is that people's reluctance to make change is the major cause of the catastrophic climate change. This is because it causes excessive emissions of greenhouse gases, a reason that is both true and commonly accepted. I will explain the details in the following paragraphs.

According to the United Nations, fossil fuels contributed to "75% of the global emissions of greenhouse gases". Fossil fuels are widely and dominantly used to generate electricity. However, it is not that modern technology of the 21st century is not advanced enough to produce electricity using other more environmentally friendly methods. Wind turbines for electricity were created in 1887, solar panels were created in 1954, nuclear power plants were put into use in 1954, and hydroelectric power plants were first used in 1878.

Evidently, the common alternatives for fossil fuels have long existed and were developed during their time existence. Is it not foolishly stubborn to think, all of you here, that alternatives can't be used? You might ask, however, aren't the alternative sources dangerous to not just people but the environment too? Well, my response to you is for you to compare whatever deaths brought by alternative energy sources to at least 8.7 million deaths brought to us annually by fossil fuels. Still, that excludes the deaths caused by smog, which is also an effect of combusting fossil fuels. NRDC, an important non-profit environmental organization estimates that 1 in 5 people die from fossil fuel air pollution.

If fossil fuels are so dangerous, and there are available alternatives, why can't we just use the alternatives – renewable energy – instead? Is it not evident enough that change in energy sources is crucial to reduce climate change? 2 answers, yes or no. If not, then what is it that prevents you from seeing the dangers of fossil fuels? The only possible answer is your stubbornness and extreme reluctance to change. If you answered yes, then why is change still not put in place? What is still stopping people from putting renewables to use? Perhaps their costliness? Well, I believe that efficiency should be taken into greater consideration because it lasts for a longer time compared to the cost of construction and maintenance. Let's compare efficiency. Hydroelectric power plants are able to convert 90% of the energy they received into electricity while even the best fossil fuel plants are only 50% efficient. Nuclear energy is about 8,000 times the efficiency of fossil fuels because the fuel used is significantly denser in terms of energy stored.

With those other reasons eliminated, we are left with a final answer. That is my friends listening here, the reluctance to change. Just because fossil fuels currently supply 80% of the world's energy, doesn't mean that it's the best technique. I suggest my idea of a solution here. There should be more renewable power plants built starting now. To change the root cause of this problem, we will raise awareness and warn those around us and those with the power to decide, that climate change is important. More importantly, we should accept and advocate for change. This is my speech, thank you all for listening.

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Huang, Susie – 14

Humans have all kinds of different environmental problems. Global warming is the most serious issue now in the world. Global warming has caused great inconvenience to human life.

One consequence that Global warming has caused is the rising of the sea level. According to china.org, Shanghai and other coastline cities were likely to drown around 2050 due to Global warming. 2050 is only 30 years from now on. Would you want to live in the ocean when you're 40? I believe that all of you want to live normally. So, if we want to live on land until 2050, we shall together make a judgement to decline Global warming.

My judgement about who's going to be punished for Global warming is that humanity is the one to be blamed. This is because that humanity means desire and human's desire on making more things overweight the importance of the environment. Humanity means selfish, and selfish could be due to Global warming by human inventions and industrial factories.

I believe that the judgement for humanity for causing Global warming is that we shall all stop to produce more CO₂. We need to stop using CO₂-producing cars whenever we need to go outside. We need to stop using plastic bottles even though when we have a vacuum cup beside us. We need to stop using fossil fuels to burn industrial factories. All of our selfishness, egoism and inconsiderate acts could lead to our own extinction.

So, in order to restrain Climate change, all humans shall reflect themselves. Reflect on why we are so selfish, selfish enough to destroy the world that we need to live in. We have produced 50 billion tons of CO₂ per year. People might wonder if 50 billion tons seems only a little, why should we care? However, if you want your generation to live happily and in peace, or you want your families and friends to live beside the coastlines to live on dry land, then you should implement measures to help reduce global warming. No matter wealthy or poor; no matter old or young; no matter what country you are in. We, together as a team of a human shall protect the earth and the environment that brings up us humans.

So, in order to make people that live beside the coastlines and your generations live in peace. We shall all reflect on ourselves and decrease the producing CO₂ in our normal life.

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Ju, Grace – 14

Hello folks, I am Judge Pao, a fair, honest, unbiased Chinese judge from the Song dynasty. Today, I will discuss a problem that has been troubling us, humans, for decades already, climate change. I would give my decision on who is to blame and what we, the human civilization, should do together to prevent climate change from becoming worse.

The health of our world is at stakes. The major problem with climate change is rising sea levels. This is a critical problem. Coastal cities with low elevations will endure major floods and eventually sink. The cities will sink, and you cannot even hear their cries. For example, climate change is going to cause significant floods in Bangkok. Floods, such as the 2011 flood, which killed hundreds of people. Things are similar for Ho Chi Minh City. It is estimated that 20 percent of Ho Chi Minh City will be flooded by 2100, and 7 million people will be in this disaster. By 2096, the city, home to 300 million people, would be completely underwater. London, the great beautiful city cannot run away the devastating palms of climate change. London has potential flooding in 2070, and 23 percent of the whole population, which would be 2 million people, would be displaced.

Before I come to my conclusion, I examined the significant contributors to climate change. According to CNN statistics, the top two contributors to climate change are electricity and heat, contributing up to 30.6 percent, and transportation, which contributed 14.8 percent.

I judge that the people to blame for climate change are those rich countries and wealthy people. Research by the international charity shows that the amount of carbon dioxide 125 billionaires emit equals the yearly emissions of 85 million cars. Some of the most significant carbon dioxide contributors are countries like US and China, which are all wealthy countries.

The trend of climate change is like a train without emergency brakes. It cannot be stopped completely. It could only be slowed down. We should charge extra tax for the households that use the most electricity per person and compensation for countries with the most emissions per capita. Charging per capita and per person means that I will not examine the whole amount of emissions from a country or a household because of population differences. A small portion of the compensation would go to the countries affected dramatically by climate change. Another major part of the money would go to investment in more renewable energy and ways to get rid of the waste that humans produce. Renewable energy can reduce the number of emissions contributing to climate change by electricity and transportation since it is impossible to stop people from using either. We can have minor investments in better ways to eliminate solid waste. Solid waste contributes 3.1 percent to greenhouse gas emissions. Investments are much needed because the anaerobic decay system is now one of the best technologies. Even with that, it generates methane and contributes to greenhouse gas.

In conclusion, climate change cannot be stopped. However, we could have compensations and additional taxes for those who contribute the most to climate change and use the money to repay countries affected and invest in more environmentally friendly ways to reduce our contributions to climate change to the very least.

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Li, Danny – 14

Climate change has been a major problem in the world we live in. It causes floods, extreme weather, economic crisis and other major problems for humanity. If we do not attempt to stop climate change right now, it would worsen in the future. In this speech, I would be going through how climate change would impact the world economy and the punishments that follow.

The impacts of climate change on the economy are very significant. According to swissre.com in a 2021 report, global GDP would decrease by 4.2% by 2050 if the Paris Agreement targets are met, which is below 2°C increase (which is not being met for the moment). If the increase is at 2–2.6°C (which is looking likely at the moment), there would be an 11%–14% decrease in GDP. If matters worsen even more to a 3.2°C increase, world GDP would decrease by 18%. The economy in China would be damaged significantly, losing 24% of its GDP in a severe scenario. The world population is estimated to increase to 9.7 billion by 2050, and the world GDP to 218 trillion USD. With so many people, an 11%–14% decrease in GDP would heavily impact the world. If this doesn't stop soon, not just lives are being lost, but the world economy would collapse, causing further and more consequential problems.

According to ourworldindata.org, China is the biggest "contributor" to global carbon emissions, with emissions accumulating over 11.47 billion metric tons in 2021. Although the USA has shown a downward trend since 2007, they're still in second with 5.01 billion metric tons. India is third with 2.71 billion metric tons. Seeing the case as it is, some countries are getting affected more than others, but those countries might not be emitting as much as others. So in other words, they should get compensated. Where do the money come from? From the main "contributors". There would be punishments for the top 10 emitters, with each country having to pay 5% of their emissions as compensation for other countries. For example, China will compensate around 550 million dollars and the USA around 250 million dollars.

Furthermore, China devoted into a goal of making non-fossil fuel sources 20% of its energy use by 2030; in 2015, that figure stood at 11%. However, I believe this number should be reaching 25% by 2030. As for now in 2022, China would reach its goal, but they aren't doing everything in its power yet. Raising it by another 5% would put pressure on China and receive better results. If the extra 5% is not reached, more punishments and compensations will appear. The United States, which had previously set a goal of reducing emissions by 17% from 2005 levels by 2020, has proposed in its INDC to bring emissions 26% to 28% below the 2005 level by 2025. Now, I would like to raise this number to 33% by 2025. USA have tried reducing before at the proposed range, but still, it's a major problem. So raising the number by 5% would hope to produce better results. Similar to China's case, if the goal is not achieved by 2025, more punishments and compensations will appear.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Lo, Angela - 14

Debris floating all over the oceans, the smell of stinky garbage, the whining sound from marine animals—this is the status quo of the oceans. Ladies and gentlemen, I, as Judge Pao, is hereby to proclaim a scathing verdict regarding the ocean pollution issue. Recently, an environmental aegis organization pulled out more than forty tons of artificial ocean debris within a month: about six-and-a-half times as heftily ponderous as an Elephant. This calamity was brought to the commonage and caught my attention. Ergo, for the equity and right of all life, it is consequential to apperceive the situation. Acts of criminality must lead to penalization. Let me present the quandary of the oceans and the ultimate verdict.

Covering more than two-thirds of the planet, the oceans provide habitats for animals, foods, livelihoods, and copious recreational value to billions worldwide. Lamentably, more than eighty percent of ocean pollution stems primarily correlates human activities encompassing plastic wastes, industrial chemicals, and oil spills. First and foremost, marine species can become entangled in or ingest discarded plastic debris, causing suffocation, starvation, and even demise. Can you imagine that a forsook plastic bottle can trap a sea turtle to death? Furthermore, its impacts fall heavily on coastal fishing communities, low-income countries, and seafood eaters. Coastal areas rely on the oceans for aliment and economical supply, their survival depends on the health of the seas, and humans are exposed to these toxins by orally consuming contaminated seafood. Ocean pollution resembles a dreadful crocodile, slowly engulfing these cosmopolitan benefits from us. Hence, a verdict proposed is vital and plausible.

Through deep cogitation, I opine that the verdict is sentenced to three stakeholders. Firstly, ocean conveyance companies frequently discharge fuel oil because of the tremendous magnitude of shipping ecumenical. Thence, they should be obligated to take responsibility. If a ship releases more than 200 tons of fuel in a single day, the shipping company will be fined twenty thousand dollars, and earnest breachers may face the company's shutdown. The alternative is to utilize renewable energy or use less fuel oil. In addition, restrictions from the regime will be implemented and enjoin ships in certain key bulwarked ocean areas. Secondly, individuals' throw-away of plastics are additionally massive ocean polluters. Ergo, to solve the problem, people who report seeing someone putting plastics in ocean will receive rewards, and violators will be fined between two to two hundred dollars for the same astringency. Society must plenary advocate and implement opportune disposal of plastics through recycling, incineration, and bioremediation. Thirdly, factories that emit a high quantity of chemical waste into the ocean withal need to take responsibility. Exorbitant emissions of chemicals into the oceans are inevitable detrimental, and pernicious. Factories should optate organic fertilizers, which are lower in nutrients, and utilize them half as often as suggested. Government should also contact institutions to prohibit pollutions in ocean of materials can't degrade or imperil human health or the marine environment.

Overall, governments and institutions should vigorously support the renewable energy transition, and mitigate utilizations of deleterious marine conveyance and discharge. To reiterate, the calamity of ocean pollution is already so solemn that we can no longer sit idly by. Hence, to ameliorate the crisis, these verdicts will be implemented immediately.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Lu, Ricky – 14

To all citizens of China, we have met the biggest problem we have ever met. It is a world-wide, severe, and important problem. Climate change. Over the past few decades, I observed the stars. It shows that there is a gigantic change in our current climate. I sense that the Earth we live on had become the warmest of the billions of years of the Earth's history. The air we breathe have changed numerously; our world is not the world we once knew.

You might think it is not a problem, but let me tell you, its influence is much bigger than what we once thought. At the far north end of our world, beyond the seas are mountains of ice and snow. Those landscapes reached and expanded for thousands of miles and under the thousands of meters of ice are the evilness from millions of years ago. We call it virus. Those tiny monsters are hiding under the ice crust. As soon as they melt, a holocaust would happen. Following the sea currents, these unknown viruses would go all around to world into the ocean. Soon they would spread to wherever there is water. Unfortunately, we have no idea how deadly these viruses are. We know nothing about our enemies. If you want to create a happy world for our next generation, we should help the Earth. But how can we help?

I searched for clues of people harming our natural environment for tens of year, the result is shocking. As shown in the investigation, all of us on the world are murderers of our mother Earth. All the time when we use light, cars or doing anything, we are using up the oxygen that we breathe every day. They are transformed into gas called carbon dioxide. These gas rises to the atmosphere and traps heat around our planet like prisoners, changing our climate. Let's think about it, who are creating most of the carbon dioxide on our planet? The answer is crystal clear, the factories and transportation we use every day. To lower the carbon dioxide created, the most effective method is to lower the energy we use. We must save energy as much as possible. In our daily life, we can turn off the lights when we don't need to use them, we can use public transportation more. From all these small things we can do, together we will make a difference.

Again, to all human on Earth, this is a global problem everyone is facing. Everyone have the responsibility to protect the Earth from being damaged by climate change. Nobody would want to see the catastrophic scenario when people are dead, animals and plants all vanished. So, people, let's do what we can do to rebuild a paradise for all life.

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Ma, Bobo – 14

It has been recently brought to my attention that climate change is starting to become a serious problem. All around the globe cities are facing temperature highs and lows never seen before, coasts are shrinking and ecosystems are slowly withering. The world is facing problems that humankind has never experienced and it is time for us to render a judgment to fix this conundrum. With all these problems caused by climate change, the biggest may be the decrease in the production of food. The drastic changes in temperature around the world will cause crop failure across the world, plants and farms will slowly have more and more underwhelming harvests. Ocean temperature will also rise and become acidic, causing fish to become sparse and become an unreliable source of food. Currently 9 million people already starve each year, the decrease of food production combined with the ever exponentially increasing population of the world will cause even the death total to skyrocket even more. Thousands of poor children will be born into a world that can't provide for them, millions of people will be forced to slowly starve to death. The people who will suffer and starve will be the poor and helpless while those who cause this blight, those who earn money with the death of the planet, they will be the ones who stuff themselves full at lavish banquets. We need to make a change, we need to fix our future, we need to save millions.

The cause of this is simply the emission of greenhouse which traps the temperature released from the sun inside our atmosphere, causing temperatures to rise. The countries that emit the most greenhouse gasses are currently developing countries like China and India. China emits more than 10,000 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, more than doubled the amount the US emits. Yet China has 1.4 billion people meaning that each individual releases 8 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, while an individual in the US releases 14 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. The US and other developed countries have also historically emitted far more carbon dioxide than developing countries. People argue that developed countries should be fined because they are already developed, yet developing countries still haven't had the chance to develop. And by fining developing countries, you are stopping them from becoming developed. Other than that, the countries that will suffer because of climate change are developing countries with less infrastructure and more people below the poverty line. Fining them will only cause more to suffer. Well, taking all these aspects into consideration, I have come to the judgement that humankind needs to heavily fine and control the emissions of first world countries and lightly control the emissions of 2nd world countries. Then using the money from the fines, we need to create a fund to support and help 3rd world countries as well as developing countries near the coastlines. This decision will save them from the decrease in production of food as well as help them overall. Thousands of children will be saved from the fate of losing their homes, thousands of families will have a chance at life they didn't have before, thousands of communities will be saved from starving to death. This decision will save millions. We need to make a change soon, we need to fix our future, so I urge you all, please change the world.

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Pan, Coco – 14

In the recent modern world, people suffer from more severe natural disasters, more frequent typhoon that destroys cities and buildings, unreasonably high temperature in late winter that melts the ice around Antarctica, deadly heatwaves in the developing countries that kills countless people. These are all because of climate change that all human beings are responsible of.

The developed countries are mostly responsible for climate change. Although they do not produce as much carbon dioxide as developing countries, they still have been the major problem. Developed countries have a stable community and a steady financial system but those factories owners are still expanding on their needs in coals and fossil fuels and extending their company into developing countries to produce more product for more profits. They have also been cutting down forests and trees for materials to make more expensive products and for farmers to promote their agriculture businesses which cause massive areas to suffer from deforestation and desertification. Why are so many people focusing on money while ignoring problems the world is facing right now? Though deforestation is more severely and frequently occurred in developing countries, but they are currently poor and undeveloped, so it is needed for them to generate money from resources they owned. However, on the other hand, it cannot be understood why, when those developed country are already wealthy, should cause deforestation to occur.

The developed countries also involve in a highly wasteful lifestyle. Many of the rich people drive cars to other places even if they are just a few hundred meters away from their house and they left their lights on when they are off to work, emitting innumerable amount of carbon dioxide and wasting a great amount of energy. According to Oxford Committee of Famine Relief, the richest 1% of the world population emit 175 times more than the 10 % of the poorest people. This shows that how the lifestyle of the rich varies from the poor and how the behavior of the rich is extravagant, profligate, and improvident. Shouldn't we eliminate their use of fossil fuels and coals to slow down climate change and the creation of greenhouse gasses?

I have come to a solution that will decrease the amount of carbon dioxide created. Firstly, as to the problem of carbon dioxide emissions with factories. Developed countries could donate considerable amounts of money for developing countries to construct environmental-friendly machine that does not involve combustion that would emit carbon dioxide to generate electricity and manufacture products. In this way, these countries cannot only stabilize their economy and society, but also producing goods by using cleaner energy to save the world from global warming. Developed countries should also spend money building sustainable equipment. For the time being, when the equipment has still not been fully constructed, the government should set a limit to the amount of carbon dioxide that could be emitted each day. Cutting down trees should also be abolished and anyone who does it should plant that tree back, in addition imposing a fine for it. Secondly, people not only the rich ones, should eliminate their waste on electricity and reduce the chance of travelling by car.

By forbidding deforestation and excluding carbon dioxide emissions, climate change will slow down considerably. As a result, people will suffer from less damage from the consequence of climate change.

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Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Pan, Tom – 14

Dear COP members, thank you for your discussion and judgment about our beloved planet. I want to make my decision here as a fair judge. I will make my judgments based on research and data.

An increase in natural disasters is one aspect of global warming. I am discussing those natural disasters affected by climate change, such as hurricanes and droughts. Natural disasters are what might finally end our planet by promoting other aspects of climate change.

For example, a modern hurricane is strengthened by the increase in water vapor and air pressure caused by an increase in air temperature. The speed and strength of a modern hurricane are 1.5 times stronger than a hurricane 75 years ago. With a wind speed of about 200 miles per hour, a hurricane nowadays can destroy a 100 meters tall building in seconds, killing innocent people without giving time to react. Not just that, as national geography predicted, as temperature increases by 1°C, the hurricane will grow 8% stronger and broader. It also caused 12% more droughts and 20% more wildfires, which can destroy a whole habitat and cause great famines around the globe.

As carbon dioxide causes a thicker ozone layer, more heat and greenhouse gasses are trapped in Earth, heating Earth. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, there is 40% more carbon dioxide now than 100 years ago. So fundamentally, it is carbon dioxide's fault that we have global warming. It is that country that emits too much carbon dioxide to be blamed. Those countries include China, the United States, and India in the lead. A total of 16.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide are emitted each year, which makes up half of the carbon emission of the whole globe. Furthermore, a decrease in half of the emissions would make a big difference.

Carbon emission goal is a carbon emission goal sets based on the countries' population, productivity, and needs, to reach carbon neutralization. However, about 55% of the countries exceed the goal. For countries that exceed the goal, we first need to make them compensate for every single ton of emission. The number needs to be big enough, so those countries will need to consider this. Secondly, we can weaken the country's power in global conferences to force the governments to take this seriously. In addition, we can force countries to establish a law about the emissions of companies and factories based on their need, financial ability, and jobs; since some companies makeup all the emissions of a small country. Finally, to fundamentally solve the problem, we need to educate people from a young age. We need to set classes in school to make people take this problem seriously and learn to save resources, electricity, and food.

Moreover, there is a good example that achieved all this. Sweden set courses and laws to keep their carbon emission low. In 2021, Sweden's carbon emission was negative. If all countries follow Sweden and what I mentioned above, the problem of global warming could be solved in the long term. However, if we still wait, as more natural disaster promotes sea level rising and habitat loss, it might be too late. We must act now! It is now or never!

Judge Pao Climate Change Speech

YK Pao Middle School, Ren, Anna – 14

Coral reefs take up less than 1% of the oceans in the world, and more than one quarter of them are already beyond repair. They have died because of bleaching or diseases caused by climate change, which is caused by us humans. But why should we care about the destruction of coral reefs which seems to have no relation to our lives?

Coral reefs have tremendous impacts on the environment. To begin with, they are home to more than one quarter of the marine population, including fungi, algae, and more than four thousand species of fish. When the number of coral reefs decline, the population of the organisms that live within coral reefs will, in turn, die as well. In addition, coral reefs act as a natural barrier between us and violent storms. The decline of coral reefs will lead to an increased amount of coasts being harmed by severe storms and increased coastal erosion. Their decline will lead to severe damages of the human population. Over 500 million people worldwide depend on coral reefs for food, income, coastal protection, and more. Any one of us might be affected and killed. We are all thoughtful and caring people. Now that we know the effects, we won't want to harm coral reefs. Since the decline of coral reefs is caused mainly by climate change, all we need to do is to slow down climate change, but who causes climate change, and how can we slow it down?

Carbon dioxide is released by us humans into the air. It is a type of greenhouse gas, which absorbs energy from the sun, turns it into infrared wavelengths, and reflects it to the surface of the earth, preventing the heat from escaping back into space. Even though carbon dioxide only takes up about 0.04% of the atmosphere, the level is higher than they have been for the last 3 million years. For example, in 2019 alone, 36.44 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide were released into the air. A shocking, significant, terrifying amount.

Around 47% of the carbon dioxide released into the air each year is by the 10% wealthiest people on Earth's lifestyles, including their electricity and transportation methods. Thus, a way to decrease the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air is by improving their lifestyles. They should use renewable energy and resources friendly to the environment. The people's affluence ensures them enough money to buy renewable resources such as solar panels. The cars that release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases should be replaced with electric cars that is friendly to the environment. For short distances, they should walk or bike instead of driving cars everywhere. A law should be set down that if the 10% wealthiest people in the world are not using environmental-friendly resources, they are required to pay extra taxes. Even if people are wealthy, nobody wants to lose money. Therefore, they will change to environmental-friendly resources, which can help benefit the whole environment by reducing the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air each year.

Therefore, based on the evidence above, the 10% wealthiest people should switch their lifestyles to using renewable, environmental-friendly resources to decrease the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air each year and slow down climate change.

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New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Ren, Chelsea – 14

People from the future! I am judge Pao, and I came here to warn you about a calamitous event caused by you. I know I should be dead 962 years ago, but now I still stand in front of you. God chooses me to judge you, the people living in the 21st century, about the abhorrent desertification you brought to this world.

Now let's start the quart. The plaintiff is the earth which has accused human beings of hurting it.

People of the earth. I was told that our planet was in great danger now. In the beginning, I didn't believe this shocking news. I thought our offspring would be much more intelligent than we were. I thought the growing technology would help our planet be better, and I thought that you would be the savior of our planet. But what did you do instead? You destroyed everything!

You killed this planet of life and beauty with your selfishness and egotism. You turned the green and vitality of our mother planet into barren and arid deserts. You covered the trees and prairies with boundless sand and death. You are leading yourselves into a calamitous ending.

Humans. According to the information, god gave me. The forest area of the world is disappearing at the rate of 17 million hectares every year, which is about 4.7 hectares a day. With almost 1000 trees per hectare, about 4700 trees are cut down daily. 4700 trees a day! This is a horrible, unbelievable, and unacceptable result! You cut down so many innocent trees! You did all of this to fulfill your greed and for your benefit.

But this is only the start of your evil behavior. As you trampled over more and more trees, the desert took its place. This is the ugliest action I've ever seen. Places that used to be lively, natural, and wild turned into poor, infertile, and empty areas. No crops can be planted; no animals can survive. It also caused extreme weather and a lot of natural disasters. Sandstorms are more and more common. This is the worst that can happen to our planet.

You all understand the consequences followed by desertification. The Great Depression that happened in 1929 was a warning. Due to over-farming and deforestation, the lack of food slaughtered the American dream and nearly killed the whole nation. But did you learn things from it? No! Now you are rewriting the same tragedy again. The same bad ending story is happening again, and you didn't even notice. If this goes on and nobody stands out to stop it, soon this planet will be unadaptable. There will be no more food for you, and humans will soon be extinct from history forever, which you deserve if you don't stop desertification right now.

We don't want this to happen, right? People, you don't want to disappear forever. This is the last warning from us. Stop hurting our planet, or you will soon be wiped from the earth as punishment from god.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Shao, Jenny – 14

I am the far-famed Pao Qingtian, also known as a just, equal, and kind judge, Judge Pao. Today's case has to do with the safety of the whole world. For the sake of people's safety and the development of the world, I will start this case. The problem of global warming has always been a "heartache" for the Earth, which in many cases is a place on which the public depends for its survival, for both nature and humans. The loss of the Earth means the loss of human beings as well. The wasteful exploitation of the Earth and its resources and the destruction of the ozone layer by some chemicals have led to the deterioration of the global situation.

We, humans, start this case: we burn fossil fuels, such as oil, coal, etc., or cut down forests and burn them to produce a lot of carbon dioxide, that is, greenhouse gases. These greenhouse gases can strongly absorb infrared radiation from the ground, which will cause the temperature of the Earth to rise, that is, the greenhouse effect. This process is called global warming.

Therefore, it is urgent to take measures to protect the Earth now. The main steps to solve global warming are energy saving and efficiency improvement. Second, strengthen the management of water resources. Third, control the number of carbon emissions and use new energy sources. These measures are essential. Improving energy will allow us to lose less, even with great demand, so we do not have to burn harmful gases. Control of water resources is an excellent way to avoid the problem of wasting resources. The development of new energy sources will make us aware of the subsequent energy depletion.

We have only one planet, and we are all under one blue sky, so let's take new actions to protect and purify our world. Protect the environment, so we do not change from "children" of the Earth to destroyers of the Earth. Protecting the environment will give you security for generations to come. Think about how beautiful it is that your sons, grandchildren, and grandchildren will live happily and sunny under a blue sky.

Let's work together for the Earth's sake and all human beings' survival.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Shi, Gordon – 14

I, Judge Pao's verdict is that the trend of increasing global temperature should be contained. Everybody should realize the severity of increasing temperature on our daily life before it becomes irreversible. Our earth temperature should be at a proper range, soothing and suitable to human skin. However, the rising global temperature is like a chronic disease encroaching on our health, our environment, and our future. As a matter of fact, we are the ones to be blamed behind the recent rising trend of temperature. How can we continue to neglect the lives of our future generations? It's such a cruel act.

To solve the problem, we need to pinpoint its source. The best way to contain this trend is by reducing the toxic emission released into air such as greenhouse gases generated from human activities. Each day, millions of factories around the globe and countless automobiles emit large amount of exhaust fumes. Therefore, to kill a serpent, we need to cut off its head. By knowing what exactly causing the temperature to rise, we can stop this issue from exacerbating.

Yet how can we fully prevent the temperature from rising? The economy is unable to grow if we cease industrial activities, so emission is almost inevitable, but does it mean we should do nothing about it? Absolutely not. We should educate people about the problem so they know the detrimental consequence about their action's and how serious the rising temperature could affect our environment. Do you want our offspring to live in a furnace? Do you want our future eco-system to be permanently damaged? Do you want many species to go extinct? Even a seemingly slight average temperature rise is enough to cause a dramatic transformation of our planet. Therefore, it will eventually make our planet unsuitable for any specie to inhabit.

Apart from education, there are still many practical aspects to tackle. Switching to alternative green energy is a milestone of our history. More people are driving electricity-powered, emission-free vehicle instead of traditional fuel vehicle. Governments are levying carbon tax based on the amount of pollution while introducing tax rebate for embracing green energy such as solar panel, hydroelectric power, and wind power. The rising popularity of bike sharing is encouraging people to choose green travel. Planting trees, and expanding acres of forest, can allow more trees to absorb the carbon dioxide and convert them into oxygen, which has the effect of cooling down the temperature.

The most effective way is the combination of policy and education, we need to make people realize how their action will affect the temperature while introducing series of measures to encourage people to curtail emission and consequently stop the temperature from rising. The utmost importance is to make people willing to pitch in deeply from the heart rather than a rule to obey.

In conclusion, every one of us living on this planet should be aware of the effect that rising temperature is having on our home, the rising temperature contributes to the highest death rate in America. It is an issue we could not afford to ignore, and we must fix this problem urgently before it goes beyond our capability. I, Judge Pao sincerely believe no one has the inclination to ruin our beloved planet and on one will turn a blind eye to the rising temperature.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Tang, Caitlin – 13

Dear fellows, I am Judge Pao. I am here to inform everyone about a serious phenomenon happening nowadays, and humans should raise awareness into preventing it to further create more harm. Our Earth has warmed and cooled numerous times during its lengthy history. Tiny variations in the planet's orbit, changes in the atmosphere or surface, or variations in the Sun's radiation led to an alternation in the climate. However, throughout the last century, another force has begun to alter Earth's climate: humanity. This climate change refers to a long-term rise in the planet's temperatures—global warming.

I am being objective and impartial here—we should do better. When we burn all the fossil fuels, we will release CO₂ pollution into the atmosphere. When we cut down trees and make them into furniture, we will devastate the forests. When we are sitting in cars driving around the countryside and chilling with air-conditioning, we are unconsciously damaging our Earth. At the two poles, mountain glaciers and ice sheets are melting, and it contributes to sea-level rise. Penguins and polar bears are losing their home. Most of them are forced to move to a colder area, and they have to leave the land where they lived for years. Human activities are causing trouble for other species, but it is inevitable that not long in the future, we will suffer just like all of the poor animals. Also, precipitation including rain and snowfall increased globally on average. Species such as mosquitoes, and crop pests are flourishing, thriving in different environments. One type of insect called the bark beetle which feeds on spruce and pine trees decimated millions of wooded acres in the United States. Witnessing your home to be destructed won't be anything delightful to see, and the innocent animals will feel the same way.

As humans, we should definitely do something. Every one of us should start by gaining awareness of detailed things in our lives. Drive less, replace cars with walking, cycling, or taking mass transit more often. Recycle more, abandon plastic bags, and use eco-friendly canvas bags instead. Plant more trees, utilize spare time, and contribute to nature with one's own strength. For every mile without driving, you will save one pound of carbon dioxide. By reducing every half of the household you waste, You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. With every single tree you plant, it will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.

Wake up, humans! Climate change is becoming a serious, detrimental, and menacing issue to all of us. Don't wait until you are pushed to the corner to react, because as soon as you bumped into the wall, there will be no room for you to make any changes no matter how much you regr

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Tang, Joanne – 14

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered here for the final judgment on the topic of deforestation. I, judge Pao, will present to you our final verdict. Many of you might know me as an upright and unprejudiced judge of the people. I once sentenced my uncle. However, I have been working on a project regarding deforestation for the past year. I have talked to dozens of experts in this field. After much discussion, we have reached a conclusion.

First and foremost, why is preventing deforestation even important? Destroying forests in large amounts can lead to serious consequences. For example, it leads to soil erosion and land collapsing. It also demolishes biodiversity, causing species to become extinct. The death of many sinless animals is caused by deforestation. It also leads to soil erosion and land collapsing. Moreover, it results in an increase in greenhouse gases, intensifying the climate change we are all facing today. Research shows that deforestation accounts for 8% of greenhouse emissions.

Deforestation has been happening faster than ever before. In just 40 years, a forest the size of Europe has vanished. This leads us to the question: who are the ones to blame? Through our investigation, the top companies responsible for the consequence are Cargill and Wilmar International. The US-based company Cargill has a long history of profiting from annihilating the environment. They have damaged the largest ecosystems such as the Amazon, Grand Chaco, and many more. Cargill is still cooperating with world chain companies such as McDonald's, Burgerking, and Walmart. Wilmar International is also the biggest palm oil trader. They control 45% of the world's palm tree trades and produce 36 million metric tons per year. Still, both companies are continuing to grow by enlarging their supply chain even with all their iniquities.

This tragic, disastrous, catastrophic situation might seem out of control. But what can you do to help? We could make minor changes in our lives such as by consuming less unrecyclable packaging and waste. Avoiding the companies mentioned above are also an effective way of change. Instead, look for eco-friendly products for similar prices from companies that care for the environment. By doing so, these companies are then forced to decrease their damage since fewer people are using their products. All these actions might seem small and futile, but when everybody does so, it can change the world.

Dear audience, we call upon every single one of you to help make a change. Our team promise to further focus on fighting from the legal aspect. Nevertheless, I hope all of you kindhearted warriors will join us by making even the smallest changes. Don't all of you care for our deteriorating planet? Let us all stand together and fight the war on climate change.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Wang, Caimo – 13

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen! You may already know me as the great Judge Pao, able to fight crimes and bring justice to the world. Well, I am here to address the case that we perhaps have been hearing about these days –global warming. Scientists are thinking that it is being caused by humans. You’ve heard up it, of its terrible consequences, and some of you believed them. But should you really believe what you see? I am here to tell you that this is false, a complete lie, unbelievable. We are humans, such intelligent beings, and they say that we have done this in complete ignorance about what we have done? My answer is no, a thousand times no! There has already been so much scientific proof showing us that this is false. And after you have heard them, you will soon realize that believing in this reason might have been the stupidest choice you have ever made. My friends, I know that you must all be yearning to know what possible reasons I have to make you think that our current reason is simple, wild, unrealistic imagination? Well, first of all, there is the chance that this is simply caused by the rotation of the earth. You see, as the earth spins around its axis, as time goes by, it slightly tilts. As it tilts, some of it that has never before been exposed to the sun, now it. You see, that is the phenomenon that we see today, of the ice caps melting! There are also other theories, for example that this has been done by aliens intending to take over earth by killing us, the human race, with heat. In the last month, there have been over a thousand sighting globally, saying that they have seen UFO’s aiming heat rays at deserted areas. Oh, those evil, malicious, wicked creatures! But also, this simply proves that the great heat, was in fact, not caused by us! How can you still possibly believe that human caused all of this! It would definitely be the wrong choice for us to continue our rant about how we are able to stop all of this simply by changing ourselves. My friends, do you see? This is the truth. I sincerely do hope that if you believe me, you are willing to help me stop the ridiculous rumors going around there days.

Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Xu, Anna – 12

Judge Pao was commonly known as Bao Zheng or Bao Gong. Born into a middle-class scholar family in Shen Xian, Hefei, he was an extremely upright politician during the Song dynasty. He is honored today, as the cultural symbol of justice. He has appeared in a great number of works of literature, often portrayed as the incarnation of the Astral God of Civil Arts.

In 999 A.D., Judge Pao was born. He was raised in the lower working class, so he was familiar with the struggles of the majority of the population and knew what it was like to live there. His later decisions were significantly influenced by this.

Then in 1027A.D., at the age of 29, Pao passed the test of the highest degree of the imperial examination in China. He was appointed as a pingshi, which was a magistrate of Jian Chang state. However, both of his parents were quite old at that time, so he decided to resign and care for them. A few years later, after they passed away, Pao were still hesitant to leave. It was until 1037A.D. when Pao decided to “get back to work”. He then became a magistrate for Tian Chang state.

During his service as the magistrate, Bao Zheng gave valuable suggestions to the country's political decisions. He once suggested that the country's annual payment of property to Khitan is not a strategy to defend themselves from attack. Instead, they should train the army, select generals, and devote itself to enriching the border defense, as well as abolishing corrupt officials and not being officials, selecting county governors and magistrates, and implementing the method of evaluating and trying to replace Enyin's children. At that time, various channels were transferred to the procuratorial envoys, and they impeached the officials accusing them of even the smallest mistakes, and focused on flaunting each other. This made the officials feel uneasy, so Bao Zheng asked for the system to be removed.

In 1043, he wrote a famous poem called 《书端州郡斋壁》

清心为治本，直道是身谋。
秀干终成栋，精钢不作钩。
仓充鼠雀喜，草尽兔狐愁。
史册有遗训，毋贻来者羞。

Through this poem, Pao embraces the character of being morally upright, and to have a cleansed heart.

Then in 1044, he went back to the capital as an investigating censor.

According to an anecdote, he once encountered a troublesome case. A man once claimed that the tongue of his ox had been sliced. He was instructed by Judge Pao to go back and sell the ox's meat. Soon after, another man entered the courtroom and charged the first man with secretly butchering a "beast of burden," a crime that carries a year in prison. However, he fell into Judge Pao's trap, since how could he know the man was selling ox meat? "Why did you slice his ox's tongue and then accuse him," yelled Bao. The offender was so shocked that he had to admit.

Another famous case was when he was sent to Liao dynasty as a messenger. According to a Liao official, the Song installed a covert side door in the border prefecture of Xiongzhou in order to recruit Liao defectors for intelligence. "Why is a side door necessary for intelligence," Bao shot back. The Liao subject was unable to reply. He solved another case with his unique point of view. From the stated incidents, people all around the place knew about Judge Pao's cleverness.

His uprightness was also demonstrated when sentenced his own uncle.

Judge Pao's story became a legend, and was retold in various forms, such as Chinese opera, plays, Pingshu, and in several Wuxia novels. His known descendants were known to have inherited his cleverness and ability to fight, as they have won multiple global awards.

This is the legendary tale of Judge Pao.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Xu, Momo – 13

Citizens of the world, I am the judge Pao Zheng, and I lived over 1000 years ago. Doubt not; I have died. But my soul lived on, preserved through stories told by generations of people, for while I am not the most paramount figure, throughout my life I did do my best to be fair and just, and I never misjudged anyone in my court. After my death, whenever demands for justice grew so strong that it woke me, I would reappear and assist my handpicked judge to restore righteousness. However, today I myself am forced to stand before you, for matters had gone way too far. I now present you my verdict on deforestation.

Deforestation is the act of removing forests and using the land for other uses. By doing so, we destroy an entire ecosystem and millions of lives in it. Is building Skyscrapers that we already have too much of really more important than this phenomenal system nature has created, which is not only dynamic and capable of self-repair, but also home to the most diverse species in the world? Today, we have less than 30% of wild forests left, and if we let things drift, there will only be 10% by 2030. Orangutans, meaning “man of forests” and sharing 96.4% of our genes, are now endangered due to deforestation. Chimpanzees, Mountain gorillas, Pygmy sloths, Monarch butterflies.....they are all on this list too.

I hereby declare that deforestation is a most ghastly sin of mankind. The forests never had any wrongdoings—quite to the contrast, they often aid the human world and keep our planet healthy. They are a great habitat that contributes to the Earth’s water cycle through transpiration; they monitor the temperature and prevent soil erosion; and perhaps most important to us, they produce the vital oxygen we need through photosynthesis and take in carbon dioxide that causes air pollution and, ultimately, global warming. But what did we give them in return? We cut them down and demolish them.

I am not saying that we should not cut down any trees, for trees can be useful. But cutting down a whole forest just for some land and maybe some material inside the plants?—That’s egregious. Wild forests are a precious gift from nature, and we must cherish this gift.

We have to protect our forests from this moment onward. It is for the good of mankind as a whole, and for the sake of our home, the Earth. She has suffered greatly from her own children’s reprehensible behavior, and she must not suffer anymore. We, with that mind of ours that we had always been so proud of, can and should be responsible for protecting Mother Earth. Instead, we have been harming her all along. This must change. And the change must start now.

New Tales of Judge Pao

YK Pao Middle School, Xu, Selene – 13

I am Judge Pao, defender of justice and renowned for my propriety and fervency in restoring order. After meticulous consideration, I have concluded that ocean pollution is an exigent matter that demands our undivided attention: it is often the primary source of environmental destruction and has potentially catastrophic consequences.

Ocean pollution is epitomized by waste and litter, with a profusion of oil spills from ships, and myriads of toxic waste pumped into the ocean. According to One Green Planet, there are approximately 270,000 tons of plastic levitating on the sea's surface. We are all accountable for this problem. How could we be so callous to allow the demise of our precious environment? The passage of time will only exacerbate the deterioration of our planet.

We must make a change.

A common misconception about ocean pollution is that it's limited to plastic and waste being dumped into the azure waters of the sea. This is utterly fictitious – the impact of ocean pollution spans far more widely. It wreaks havoc with the purity of the air we breathe, contributes to rising sea levels, and is a significant factor in the extinction of key animal species.

Fundamentally, contamination of our waters contributes to and aggravates air pollution. According to National Geographic, the proliferation of algal blooms is advanced by ocean pollution, this phenomenon can be hazardous to wildlife and can ultimately be detrimental to humans. According to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the ocean is an air filter at night, absorbing pollutants that fuse with the sea surface after the sun sets. The pollutants will then be ingested by the inhabitants of our complex marine ecosystems, gradually tainting the ocean.

Furthermore, the melting of polar ice caps can also be attributed to ocean pollution. According to Polar Trec, Arctic airborne pollutants form fog which traps the Sun's energy, thereby increasing the air temperature in a similar way to greenhouse gases. Increasing temperatures lead to another severe problem: global warming. Global warming precipitates the melting of polar ice caps in Arctic areas resulting in flooding of low lying land as a result of surging sea levels.

Finally, the destruction of our oceans can be intrinsically connected to the decimation of marine species. According to Pew Trusts, marine creatures can become entangled in or ingest plastic debris, causing asphyxiation, starvation and drowning. Moreover, sea contamination is propelling some species to the fringe of extinction. Could you imagine a world with no sea creatures? According to a neoteric investigation by researchers at Plymouth University, 15 animals' extinction is ascribed to ocean pollution, and 700 marine species are in peril.

Now, for the overwhelming environmental problems and climate change to cease, we must confront the root cause – ocean pollution – promptly. We must make a change.



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 annoyable. 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.