

Mouzi, Disposing of Error

1. What strategies does Mouzi use to respond to charges that Buddhism contradicts the moral principles and ways of living set forth by Confucianism?
2. How does historical context (what is going on at this time in history) help us understand why Mouzi is having this discussion?

Han Society

1. Would you say Han social classes were mostly similar to or mostly different from what we have typically seen in other societies at this time (India, Greece, Persia)? What might explain these similarities or differences?

"The Classic of Filiality"

2. Why is filiality (or "filial piety," the relationship between family members) so important? How does it relate to the broader Confucian structure of Chinese society?
3. According to the Classic of Filial Piety, what was central to cultivating good people and a good society? How does this reflect Confucian values in both society and government?

Ban Zhao, *Lessons for a Woman*

4. Based on this source, how would you describe what life was like for women in the Han Dynasty?

5. According to Ban Zhao, what are the proper roles and duties of women--what was expected of them? How does this viewpoint relate to filial piety and Confucianism?

6. Ban Zhao was a female scholar, yet her book seems to perpetuate ideas of a patriarchy (male dominated society). Why do you think she wrote *Lessons for a Woman*? Why do you think this source might be of particular interest to historians?

Exploring the Han Dynasty through Objects

1. What general observations can you make about the various objects from the Han Dynasty? What stands out about them (anything interesting, noticeable, questions that come up, etc)?

2. What sorts of things can these objects tell us about life in the Han Dynasty? What inferences can you make about the society and culture of the Han Dynasty based on various objects? (provide examples)

3. What might be the limitations of trying to use objects such as these to learn about life in Han China?