Abstracts

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Notes on a Case of Illicit Sex from Zhangjiashan: a Translation and Commentary

張家山《奏議書》：奸

This essay concerns the single case of illicit sex included in the Zouyan shu excavated at Zhangjiashan. Interest in this particular case has been high, since the case offers indisputable evidence regarding the separation of legal and moral principles in relation to domestic affairs at the time the judgment was rendered. Previous theories about the interpretation of the case have focused upon the quality and timeliness of the evidence brought to the judges for their consideration, while this essay draws attention to the probable relevance to the case of contemporary laws on residency, inheritance, and the proper ways to report crimes to higher authorities.

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A First Reading of the Shanghai Museum Bamboo-Strip Manuscript of the Zhou Yi

上博楚竹書《周易》初讀

This study introduces a bamboo-strip manuscript of the Zhou Yi or Zhou Changes purchased by the Shanghai Museum in 1994. The fragmentary manuscript includes 58 strips, about one-third of the received text of the Zhou Yi. Orthographic features suggest that it was copied in the southern state of Chu about 300 B.C.E. Although the manuscript includes numerous orthographic variants vis-à-vis the received text, it does show that the text was stable by this date.
of copying. The most unusual feature of the manuscript is a pair of symbols written after the hexagram name and at the end of the hexagram text. Although several explanations of these symbols have been advanced, none of them appears to be convincing to date. A final question about the manuscript concerns the sequence of hexagrams in it. Since the binding straps of the manuscript had already decayed and the strips become disordered, and since each hexagram text begins on a new bamboo strip, no sequence is apparent. However, the physical circumstances of the strips, especially the points at which they are broken, may suggest that the sequence was more or less similar to that of the received Zhou Yi.

Gopal Sukhu 蘇古柏
Yao, Shun, and Prefiguration: The Origins and Ideology of the Han Imperial Genealogy

With the weakening of the Zhou royal line many began to wonder if someone qualified to replace it might not be found in another lineage. The myth of the sage king Yao ceding his kingdom to Shun, an unrelated commoner, helped to make licit the yearning for such a figure, and at times argued for meritocracy, an ideal some thinkers counterposed against the sanctity of hereditary monarchy. After the fall of the Qin that ideal and the myth remained closely associated through most of the Former Han dynasty.

Sometime in the latter half of that period, however, certain scholarly circles connected with the imperial house began to develop the doctrine that the Han Lius were in fact descended from Yao, a doctrine which
became orthodoxy with the rise of Wang Mang. After the establishment of the Later Han dynasty, Guangwudi (r. 25–57) attempted to force this doctrine and a prophetic literature supporting it, called *chenwei* (usually translated apocrypha), on the newly rehabilitated Imperial Academy. Some of these texts were created by applying to the *Spring and Autumn Annals* a hermeneutic mode that many Western scholars still hold does not occur in the history of Confucian scholarship: typological allegory—in this case to show that the rise of the founder of the Han was prefigured in the *Annals*. Meanwhile, ideologues excluded from the academy, but favored by the emperors, were putting the image of Yao to an unprecedented use—to support an ideology wherein the right to rule was unquestionably tied to heredity regardless of merit.

This article discusses some of the political developments and the exegetical interventions that helped produce these new uses of the Yao/Shun myth.

Choosing Balance: Weighing (*quan*) as a Metaphor for Action in Early Chinese Texts

Texts from the Zhou and Han periods regularly use the term *quan* “to weigh” when describing or prescribing human action. This essay seeks...
to determine precisely which concrete acts of weighing underlie the
metaphoric application of the term to human action. A survey of the
available textual and archaeological evidence shows that even before
the Eastern Han, when steelyards became the most common weighing
device, the act of weighing might have been executed and conceptual­
ized in multiple ways. A similar conclusion is drawn from a survey of
pictorial and literary references to metaphoric weighing in non-Chinese
traditions. More precisely, I suggest three distinct possibilities: matching
the object to be weighed with a known standard, determining which of
two objects weighs heaviest, and, lastly, seeking the point at which the
balance beam will gain or recover balance.

Early Chinese texts provide examples of all three (quan A, B, and C).
Quan B became prominent especially during the 3rd century B.C.E., when
persuaders discussed how every choice had negative as well as positive
consequences. Quan A and C are attested in texts usually dated to the 4th
century B.C.E. or before. In this essay I argue that it is quan C that became
the dominant metaphor in moral-political discourse, and that it had two
competing interpretations: it could refer either to the multiple ways in
which a sage adapts his actions to the circumstances, or to a temporary
lifting of moral standards during an emergency. Whereas scholars in the
Han and Qing dynasties generally accepted that moral rules were not
absolute, Song scholars were scandalized by the notion that deviations
from the rule were part and parcel of moral action.

漢代及其以前的文獻通常用“權”來描述和規定人的行為。本文旨在
分析究竟哪些具體的稱量行為構成了關於人類行動的隱喻。考古和文
字方面的材料表明，即使在杆秤成為通用工具的東漢以前，稱量的行為
就已經以多種方式被採用，並且被概念化了。對其他文化傳統的圖像
和文學資料的研究也揭示了相似的結論。更確切地說，我認為稱量具
有三種不同的可能性: (1) 參照一個已知的標準稱量; (2) 比較兩個不同
物體的重量; (3) 尋找一個制衡點讓秤杆保持平衡。

在中國早期的文獻中，這三種可能性都得到了體現。其中第二種方式
在公元前三世紀尤為突出，當時的說客在討論如何進行決策時，借這種
方式說明每個選擇帶來的正面和負面的影響。而第一種和第三種方式
通常在公元前四世紀或者早些的文獻中出現。我認為第三種方式在道
德和政治話語中構成了一種主導性隱喻，並且有兩種相互抗衡的詮釋:
聖賢既可以根據具體情況採取變通的行為，也可以在緊急情況下暫時取
消某種道德標準。儘管漢代和清代的學者普遍認為道徳原則並不是絕
對的，但是對於宋代學者來說，他們無法認同背離原則有時是為了保證
道德操守這樣的理念。