EAST ASIAN STUDIES 513:
Classical Historiography For Chinese History, 1000-1900

Exercise 8: Classical Quotations and Translations

Locate and address the following texts in light of possible translations.

1) Wang Guowei's translation from the appendix on genius in Schopenhauer's *The World As Will And Idea* contains the line: 天才者不失其赤子之心也。Comment on this translation.

2) Identify and discuss briefly:

問曰。孔子曰。夷狄之有君。不如諸夏之亡也。孟子譏陳相。更學許行之術曰。吾聞用夏變夷。未聞用夷變夏者也。吾子弱冠學堯舜周孔之道。而今捨之。更學夷狄之術。不已惑乎。

3) Identify the following passage and discuss the historical context:

今欲強中國存中學。則不得不講西學。然不光以中學固其根抵。端其識趣。則強者為亂首。弱者为人奴。其禍更烈于不通西學者也。

4) Why would a literatus be suspected of treason for choosing the following passage as a topic for an 8-legged essay and subsequently sentenced to death in the eighteenth century: 惟民所止 (= 維民所止 shortened to 維止)?

5) There is a story (not found in the dynastic histories) in which doves (*jìu* 鳩) are associated with an episode in the life of Han Gaozu 漢高祖. 1) Find at least two variants of this story, preferably those of early date. 2) Identify their textual sources. 3) Link them chronologically to the incident in Gaozu's career. 4) Link them geographically to the place of the event to which they pertain. 5) Translate the two variants into English, giving whatever additional notes seem necessary to support your translation. P.S. This was an actual doctoral examination in Oriental Studies given by Derk Bodde to W. Allyn Rickett at the University of Pennsylvania.