

SCRIPTURES OF BUDDHISM AND CONFUCIANISM

The first selection is from the *Dhammapada* ("Verses on the Dharma"), a collection of verses that contain the principles of Buddhist ethics. The second selection is from the *Hsiao Ching*, one of the classics of Confucianism. In it, devotion to one's parents and ancestors is set forth as a fundamental principle of Confucianism.

Pleasure

Let no man ever cling to what is pleasant, or to what is unpleasant. Not to see what is pleasant is pain, and it is pain to see what is unpleasant.

Let, therefore, no man love anything; loss of the beloved is evil. Those who love nothing, and hate nothing, have no fetters.

From pleasure comes grief, from pleasures comes fear; he who is free from pleasure knows neither grief nor fear.

From affection comes grief, from affection comes fear; he who is free from affection knows neither grief nor fear. . . .

The Miracle of the Bamboo Shoots

Meng Tsung, who lived in the Ch'in dynasty, lost his father when young. His mother was very ill, and one winter's day she longed to taste a soup made of bamboo shoots, but Meng could not procure any. At last he went in to the bamboo grove, and clasping the bamboos with his hands, wept bitterly. His filial love moved nature, and the ground slowly opened, sending forth several shoots, which he gathered and carried home. He made a soup of them, which his mother tasted, and immediately recovered from her malady.

1. In a sentence or two, briefly summarize the content of the selection from the *Dhammapada*.

2. How does the first selection support the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism (textbook pages 73-74)?

3. In the second selection, what is it that "moves nature" to send forth new shoots of bamboo?

4. What advice might a Buddhist master have given to Meng Tsung when he began to weep?
