

Evil in Chinese Religions

There are two readings here on evil from Chinese sources.

First, the debate between Mencius and Hsün Tzu (Xun Qing) over whether human nature is intrinsically good. This debate is mentioned on p.271 of *Invitation to World Religions* (1st edition). Xun Qing may have exercised a greater influence over early Confucianism, but his works would eventually be rejected by Confucians, whereas Mencius came to be seen as the legitimate successor to Confucius.

Secondly, I have included some extracts from the Zhuangzi. Zhuangzi thinks that Heaven and Earth do not support human ideas of goodness, and, indeed, there may not even be a single idea of human nature from which to draw moral standards. We must do our best to model ourselves on a universe that is indifferent to us, and this means being prepared to reject conventional morality. If morality is nothing more than a set of conventions, then rejecting conventional morality means rejecting any moral standards.