

Dearest Peucianans

Last week we met around the table to discuss the human alone and in company. This week we are also gathering to discuss human interaction, perhaps the first and most fundamental one.

Resolved :Honor Thy Mother And Thy Father

Affirmative: Matthew J. Liptrot

Negative: Jonathan Swift

This week we are going to bring to trial either the fifth or fourth commandment (depending on how you count them). Filial piety is a particularly poignant problem for us, as we college students have for the most part only left the familial home quite recently. The seal of our upbringings is still fresh. We intend to discuss how much we owe to our parents, by blood or by adoption, how much their will should be considered in the decisions we make and feats we undertake. Filial piety has been a root of moral systems that have fostered great civilizations across the world for millenia, From Greece to Judea to the Banks of the Yangtze. Since our parents, by choice or not so much, brought us in to this world and put work and resources and put off other opportunities in to our very health and existence and admittance in to a prominent liberal arts college, many would argue that we should give back to them some sliver of the good they have done for us. Others would say that the respect of children for their parents is something that should be earned, rather than granted by the accident of birth. Our lives are first and foremost ours, and nobody's well being or honorableness should be brought in to concern as much as our own especially when it is not an association that we choose. For every story that praises the children who do their parents right, there are stories of parents who got things horribly wrong concerning their children's welfare and nature and the things that fit them best.

Attached are a few literary works, harkening from an often rebellious Roman province, Ancient China, and Liverpool, that may serve to provide seed material for this debate.

<http://www.chinapage.com/confucius/xiaojing-be.html>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+15%3A11-32>

Please come to the third floor of Mass Hall in western business attire. Bring your questions, your friends, your doubts, and every flicker of your fire.

Yours faithfully,

Aesop

P.S. Watch your inboxes and mailboxes for updates on a Peucinian gathering this weekend.