

## Chapter 5: Introductions, Questions, and Activities

### Excerpts from *Bamboo Annals*

SOURCE: *The Riddle of the Bamboo Annals*, translated by David S. Nivison (Taipei: Airiti Press, 2009), 140, 142.

#### Introductory Note:

In these selections from the *Bamboo Annals*, we see evidence that suggests how elites understood the relationship between natural phenomena and political transitions. However, there is much more to these materials, which have been a source of spirited debate among experts for decades. Claims about the Xia dynasty draw largely from the realm of myth. Understandings of the Shang dynasty are based on interpretations of the oracle bones, but more recently experts have decoded inscriptions on many of the surviving bronze artifacts that date to the period of Shang rule.

These selections purport to address a major transition dated to 1556 BCE, when the Xia dynasty was supplanted by the Shang. They also provide evidence of how this transition may have been understood by people at the time—as a consequence of natural disasters, environmental changes, portents read in the sky, and the failures of Xia rulers to interpret these portents and respond to them properly.

These selections also point to developments that occurred much later, such as the coining of money, which has been dated to the seventh century BCE. While this material cannot be interpreted literally, it remains a rich source of information about how that earlier period (roughly 1550–300 BCE) was remembered. It reminds us that the concerns of the present—in this case the period in which the text was reconstructed (likely around c. 300 BCE)—shape how the past will be remembered.

#### Short-Answer Question:

How did the recording of events purported to have occurred sometime around 1550 BCE express the concerns and anxieties about politics, society, and the power of the natural world c. 300 BCE?

#### Discussion Questions:

In passages 119, 130, and 132, there are references to major engineering projects, the power of metal, and the coining of money. How do these passages express the relationship between humans and the environment?

Why do you think there are so many references to drought? How are natural phenomena connected to political transitions in this document?

Identify references that appear to point to “supernatural” events. Why might the original authors have described these events this way?

#### Activity Idea:

# Chapter 5 Introduction To The Latin Text

**AN Whitehead**



## Chapter 5 Introduction To The Latin Text:

**Alhacen on Refraction: Introduction and Latin text** Alhazen, A. Mark Smith, 2010 Alhacen's treatment of light and sight in the *De aspectibus* culminates with the analysis of refraction in book 7. Far briefer than his account of reflection which occupies three books, Alhacen's study of refraction follows essentially the same pattern of analysis starting with various experiments designed to establish or confirm the governing principles of refraction empirically and proceeding to the application of those principles to specific cases according to the shape of the refracting surface. In many respects, in fact, reflection and refraction are side of the same coin according to Alhacen. Contents of this two volume set: 1. Intro Alhacen's Analysis of Refraction: An Overview; 2. The Ptolemaic Underpinnings of Alhacen's Refraction Analysis; 3. The Fate of Alhacen's Refraction Analysis in the Latin West; 4. Putting Alhacen in His Proper Place; 5. Manuscripts and Editing; 6. Latin Text; 7. English Translation; 8. Glossary and Bibliography. [De Quatuordecim Partibus Beatitudinis](#) Anselm (Canterbury, Erzbischof, Heiliger), Avril Henry, D. A. Trotter, 1994

**Women and the Law in the Roman Empire** Judith Evans Grubbs, 2002 This sourcebook fully exploits the rich legal material of the imperial period explaining the rights women held under Roman law, the restrictions to which they were subject and legal regulations on marriage, divorce and widowhood. [The Role of History in Latin American Philosophy](#) Arleen Salles, Elizabeth Millán, 2012-02-01 This book brings the history of Latin American philosophy to an English speaking audience through the prominent voices of Mauricio Beuchot, Horacio Cerutti Guldberg, María Luisa Femenías, Jorge J. E. Gracia, Oscar R. Martínez, Carlos Pereda and Eduardo Rabossi. They argue that Spanish is not a philosophically irrelevant language and that there are original positions to be found in the work of Latin American philosophers. Part I of the book looks at why the history of philosophy has not developed in Latin America. A range of theoretical issues are explored, each focusing on specific problems that have hindered the development of a solid history. Part II details the complex task of writing a history of philosophy for a region still haunted by the specter of colonialism.

**Alhacen's Theory of Visual Perception: Introduction and Latin text** Alhazen, 2001

**Alhacen on the Principles of Reflection: Introduction and Latin text** Alhazen, A. Mark Smith, 2006 This two volume set is a continuation of A. Mark Smith's publication of Ibn al-Haytham's *De aspectibus*, the most important treatise on optics of the Middle Ages, indeed the most important treatise prior to the 17th century. This edition of Alhacen's text will appeal to those who are interested in medieval scientific developments but also to others for whom the study of optics in particular forms part of the cultural development of the later Middle Ages. The understanding of vision continues to gain importance in the historiography of intellectual life in this period. Prof. Smith's work will be an important contribution to this scholarship. His translation of the Latin text accurately represents a challenging technical original. Illustrations. [A Companion of Classical Texts](#) Frederick William Hall, 1913

**The Assumption of Moses, Translated from the Latin Sixth Century Ms. ...** Robert Henry Charles, 1897

**The Assumption of Moses, Translated from the Latin Sixth Century MS., the Unemended Text of which is Published**

**Herewith, Together with the Text in Its Restored and Critically Emended Form** Robert Henry Charles, 1897    The assumption of Moses Robert Henry Charles, 1897    The Old Latin Texts of the Heptateuch Albert Victor Billen, 1927    *The uncanonical and apocryphal scriptures, with introductions to the several books and fragments, and a general intr. to the Apocrypha*, by W.R. Churton William Ralph Churton (the younger), 1884    **Surrealism in Latin American Literature** M. Nicholson, 2013-01-07 Charting surrealism in Latin American literature from its initial appearance in Argentina in 1928 to the surrealist inspired work of several writers in the 1970s Melanie Nicholson argues that surrealism has exercised a significant and positive influence over twentieth century Latin American literature particularly poetry    **The Nebraska Educational Journal** , 1924    The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English Robert Henry Charles, 1913    A biblical dictionary James Austin Bastow, 1876    **The Classical Review** , 1928    **The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English** , 1913    The Cambridge Companion to Latin Love Elegy Thea S. Thorsen, 2013-11-21 Latin love elegy is one of the most important poetic genres in the Augustan era also known as the golden age of Roman literature This volume brings together leading scholars from Australia Europe and North America to present and explore the Greek and Roman backdrop for Latin love elegy the individual Latin love elegists both the canonical and the non canonical their poems and influence on writers in later times The book is designed as an accessible introduction for the general reader interested in Latin love elegy and the history of love and lament in Western literature as well as a collection of critically stimulating essays for students and scholars of Latin poetry and of the classical tradition    The Uncanonical and Apocryphal Scriptures , 1884

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