

慈濟大學宗教與文化研究所九十年入學考試
英文試題

此文件經過圖書館整理,所有內容應以原單位之文件為主,請至該單位網頁參考

請將英文翻譯成中文(六題選答五題,每題十分) 佔 50%

- 1、 There is no single sacred text or set of documents that contains all the basic beliefs, doctrines, and values of the popular religion. These basic ideas must be sought instead in many different places and forms: in sacred books, votive art, rites, temple murals, family worship, myths, exemplar tales, and even fiction. That is to say, to a great extent the basic ideas of the popular religion coincide with beliefs and values that pervade Chinese culture as a whole.
- 2、 In China ancestor worship is by nature an act of obeisance. Many people make regular offerings to dead who are not members of their line, sometimes even to quite distant relatives. But no one would consider worshipping a child or grandchild. Although people are under-standably reluctant to contemplate the possibility, all agree that parents will abandon the soul of an adolescent son rather than worship him themselves.
- 3、 A comparative study of this vast array of types of goddess worship reveals certain common themes and distinct differences in the ways female deities are experienced. They are worshiped as punishing mothers, protectors of community, images of national identity, sources for the resolution of human problems, symbols of virginity and purity, the origins of the fertility of crops and human beings, mediators between humans and male divinities, and sources for healing.
- 4、 Views of the afterlife, of expectations concerning some form of human survival after death, cannot be isolated from the totality of the understanding of the nature of the divine, the nature of humankind, time and history, and the structure of reality. Not all religious persons have addressed the same kinds of questions, nor have ideas always been formulated in a uniform way by those nurtured within any one of the many religious traditions of the world.
- 5、 A myth is an expression of the sacred in words: it reports realities and events from the origin of the world that remain valid for the basis and purpose of all there is. Consequently, a myth functions as a model for human activity, society, wisdom, and knowledge. The word mythology is used for the entire body of myths found in a given tradition. It is also used as a term for the study of myths.

6 † In the study of religion, as in other studies, it is difficult to separate method from theory:

the "how" of the study of religion necessarily implies something about its "what." The question arises whether religion is to be broadly defined from the start or defined gradually in the course of inquiry. A wider or narrower definition of religion (e.g., whether or not to include nontheistic or nontranscendent traditions) necessarily affects the scope and thrust of the research.