

SCENARIO for Unit 2b:

One of the OCSS City Repair youth group has just completed their study of Day of the Dead rituals, during which they and their families told stories about distant ancestors and relatives recently passed, created home altars representing the dead, and made ceremonial food; the photography group too has shared their latest work. These youth participants were inspired by the experience of reconnecting with family members & friends through these activities. Now they have expressed wanting to engage in some kind of reflection grounded in a practice that they do on a regular, daily or weekly basis.

Knowing that you have studied modern Chinese forms of reflection used to motivate and focus regular forms of practice, OCSS City Repair has asked you participate in evaluating a set of three contemporary practices they are considering for the next stage of their efforts (see links in on-line schedule for more information):

- A. A local scholar and long-term member of the Church of the Latter Day Saints has offered to sponsor a **weekly study group** for non-LDS members to examine the Book of Mormon and other revelations of Joseph Smith. She has clarified that this would not be a missionary activity, but rather would be aimed at better informing the youths who participate about an often-misunderstood tradition of revelation and moral guidance.
- B. A neighbor who works for the Community Development Planning division of the City of Sacramento has heard about the popularity of the neighborhood intersection and City Repair's efforts. She has offered to involve the youth group in weekly meetings focused on **reviewing the Urban Design Guidelines** for the city, which serves as the blueprint for making decisions about future development.
- C. Local futurist writer Kim Stanley Robinson has offered to lead a **weekly writing group** for the youths, focused on writing short stories and perhaps multi-chapter narratives that envision future possibilities for the human race in the 21st century. He proposes to create an online site that will feature these writings, presented in installments so that writers can receive feedback.

Having heard from you that these practices are similar to the Daoist writing and architectural practices of late imperial and modern China, the City Repair staff has asked that you **offer some advice about how to facilitate these activities effectively**, given that they want to promote reflection that will motivate and focus young adults' participation in some regular practice.

HOMEWORK: Using annotations, gather evidence from the historical records of the late medieval & modern Chinese practices assigned for this unit (see schedule) that helps you evaluate the way(s) that the forms of reflection associated with each practice motivated and focused that practice.

- Identify **actions, objects, spaces/locales & people** involved in each practice and **words & images** about which participants reflect, which show ways that reflection about unseen beings & forces motivated & focused regular practice. ****MAKE SURE TO MARK PAGES FOR EACH EXAMPLE****
- Since you will eventually be asked to apply what you learned to activities A-C proposed above, **look for ways that the historical Chinese practices are similar to those contemporary activities.**