

RELUCTANT CONFESSION REGARDING LI KIANG

One of the contributors to this website, Dr. Len Troncale, met AI circa 1968 (see Bio's of Wilson Trust Fellows under Home button). From that year, and for nearly forty years, he and AI would meet irregularly in Southern California for discussions and debates. Both were vitally interested in Hierarchy Theory and General Systems Theory. Both were very focused on pursuit of wisdom. Both were simultaneously dedicated to science and the sacred, an unusual and rare combination of often warring scientists and religious.

During the period when AI and Donna Wilson lived in Topanga Canyon. Len would drive over periodically and take part in discussions and music parties. Donna started a book store in the Topanga Canyon shopping area by the 10 Freeway. AI and Len would walk through the canyon area and talk all day while she opened the store. Donna would laugh after they joined for dinner and accuse both of them of talking about all the problems of the world but doing or writing nothing (a judgement that they both accepted).

Because of the focus on wisdom, it was natural for both AI and Len to come up with aphorisms or sayings while they walked and talked. AI was especially talented at stating impressive insights in concise phrasing. His breadth of knowledge of ancient history, and philosophy, and religions was incredible and impressive.

One day AI said we should attribute all such sayings to a fabled Chinese scholar of antiquity. It was a true reflection of AI's modesty that he would hide his talent at forging pithy sayings by attributing them to someone else. It was one of the reasons so many loved him. AI, over the next two meetings, decided to name the made-up character, Li Kiang, which he told Len were two tributaries of the famous and central Yangtze River, the greatest river of China. Looking the term up on Google nowadays, 20 years after AI invented it, yields descriptions like the name for a portion of the Yangtze, and it startled me to see that looking up Images on Google reveals that there are many dozens of real, live individuals named Li Kiang today in China.

Later, AI composed the biographies included above to continue his prescription for hiding his identity as author of the aphorisms listed below. His biographies are a combination of his playful nature and his command of real mysteries in history.

I hasten to add that it hurts me to reveal this fiction, but I do not want scholars of history in the future to waste earnest time trying to find a real Li Kiang in ancient history. It also hurts me to write these notes in all honesty and so reveal AI's invention to hide his identity. He has passed away. So there is no longer a need to protect him from the arrogance or pride that might come from authoring these many fine sayings (all I hasten to add are his and not mine). Also analysis of many of the sayings, even if I did not honestly reveal this fantasy, would show that too many of them presume knowledge only known from research this century, so could not be the sayings of an ancient Chinese wiseman.

AI was a very precious and incredibly informed mind as the sayings demonstrate. I mourn the loss of such a mind, such a person. From youth we all forge our identity through our

choices and how we choose to form our neural nets. Imagine the loss to humanity when such a person passes and their mind and personality can never be accessed again. Only through the preservation and study of sayings such as these that follow can we honor and appreciate such a mind.