Honors LA 10

June 3rd 2014 Journal Entry: **Heroism and Honor in CTHD**

1. Choose the four most important characters of this film so far. For **each character**, respond to the following:
   1. Review the description of *wuxia* (on the back of this sheet). How does this character fit into this example of *wuxia* – as a hero? Protagonist? Antagonist? Possibly more than one role? Or do they not fit into the description at all? Use specific details from the film to support your categorization.
   2. How does this person react to and live with the concept of honor? Do they abide by a code of honor, or struggle against it? Do they have their own sense of honor that clashes with others’ ideas? What does honor meant to this person?
   3. What is this character’s backstory (i.e. what isn’t shown in the film, but is hinted at in remarks from themselves or other characters)?
2. On a full journal page (or two if you write voluminously): Using a graphic organization method (like a simplified version of the *Persepolis* character map), show how the paths and relationships of different characters in this story cross, intertwine, or run parallel. If you can’t remember the character’s name or they don’t have one, create your own simple descriptor (i.e. “rural policeman’s daughter”). On the lines between characters, give a simple descriptor of their relationship, including nuances as well as obvious ties.

**\*\*\*Due: Thursday June 5th at the beginning of class\*\*\***

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*Wuxia* literally means “chivalrous armed hero,” and elements of *wuxia* literature date back over 2000 years. *Wuxia* heroes are usually bound by a code of chivalry that requires them to right wrongs, fight for righteousness, remove an oppressor, and bring retribution for past misdeeds. One kind of typical *wuxia* story features a young male protagonist who experiences a tragedy, such as losing his loved ones, and goes on to undertake several trials and tribulations throughout his adventures in order to learn several forms of martial arts from various fighters. At the end of the story, the protagonist emerges as a powerful fighter whom few can equal. He uses his abilities to follow the code of *xia* (honor) and mends the ills of society and the establishment. Other stories use different structures: for instance, the protagonist is denied being accepted into a martial arts sect. He experiences hardships and trains secretly and waits until there is an opportunity for him to show off his skills and surprise those who initially looked down on him. Some stories feature a mature hero with powerful martial arts abilities confronting an equally powerful antagonist as his nemesis.

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