Summary of Chapter 8 of the Sù Wèn

Líng Lán Mi Diǎn Lùn – The Confidential Collections in the Royal Library about the Functions of the Twelve Viscera

Paragraph 1

Huang Di asks: "I would like you to tell me the mutual relations between the twelve Zàng-Fǔ in the human body and their principal and subordinate status in functions."

- Xin: Sovereign
  - represents: Consciousness of one’s being
  - responsible for: Intelligence, wisdom, spiritual transformation
- Fei: Prime Minister
  - governs: Various vessels
  - regulates: Qi of body
  - Jing Luo
- Gan: General
  - is: Courageous & smart
  - its: Emotion = Anger (intention to survive)
  - sets: Vision
  - Ideas in the future
- Dan: Judge (unbiased)
  - is: Power of discernment
  - for its: Soldier
  - has: Courage
Xīn Bāo is Butler, Court jester

transmits Joyfullness of the heart through it

Brings bad news in ‘light/funny’ way

Pí is Officer of Granary

in charge of Digesting, absorbing, spreading and storing the essence of food

Dà Cháng responsible for Transportation of all turbidity

Xiǎo Cháng receives Food

from Wèi

extracts and absorbs

distributes throughout Body

separates Pure from Turbid

absorbs Essence
Paragraph 2

Wu [2, p56] writes that the principle of health-preserving is subtle and hard to comprehend. Only by painstaking pondering during study one can maybe understand it. Then he writes about any tiny substance in nature that, when accumulated, forms the human body.

Maoshing Ni [4, p35] however, writes: "The principles of healing and medicine in general are difficult to grasp because many changes occur in illness, and the healing process must adapt to that." which is more or less the same as what Wu [2] writes. But the [4] continues with: "It becomes difficult to know the root. The origin of illness can be so small and vague, in fact, so elusive, but the illness can still become substantial over time." Which is different than Wu's [2] line of the 'tiny substance'.

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Paragraph 3

Huáng Dì is happy and wants to preserve this information for future generations. Well, it looks that he was successful.

Bibliography