



Forum: Idioms and Proverbs ĩ¼ˆæˆ•è²žèˆ†è«ºè²žĩ¼‰º

Topic: a Santayana saying

Subject: Re: a Santayana saying

Posted by: montanius

Posted on: 2013/12/7 0:33:26

Hi "deadserpent",

Thanks for the help! Now, this is really interesting. I went through the chapter and I state that both interpretations is correct.

In the article in which the sentence appears he writes of evolution, thus it can be interpreted as simply a "technical" question - it runs like this "(...) and when experience is not retained, as among savages, infancy is perpetual. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.(...) This is the condition of children and barbarians,(...)" - in other words, this is not an ethical question, it is not about repeating foul deeds or something but any deed - because it is a "pre-moral world".

But some pages back he says: "(...) as we shall see, there is actually a similar foundation in all human and even in all animal natures, which supports a rudimentary morality common to all,(...)" in this case the translation with é†•è¹ˆè†è³⁄⁴™ is correct, it is about moral and we have to learn our history for avoiding to make the same evil deeds.

(A note: easy to see that the two train of thoughts make the whole text inconsistent. Apart from this Santayana is a good guy, he-he.)

Thanks for your kind help again!

Quote:

deadserpent wrote:

é†•è¹ˆè†è³⁄⁴™

repeating bad history

repeating error(s)

The saying:

â€œThose who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.â€•

Cited from:

The Life of Reason - Reason in Common Sense, (Scribner's) 1905, page 284