

## Reading 10: *Lafcadio Hearn: Worksheet*

Reading 10. Lafcadio Hearn, 'The Genius of Japanese Civilization', *Atlantic Monthly* 76:456 (October 1895) pp. 449-58.

### I. General Questions

1. What is the date, venue, and main subject of the article?
2. How much and in what way does the article reflect Hearn's own personal experiences?
3. What aspects and characteristics of Japanese culture does Hearn single out for praise?
4. What aspects and characteristics of Japanese culture is Hearn critical of?
5. What aspects and characteristics of Western culture does Hearn single out for praise?
6. What aspects and characteristics of Western culture is Hearn critical of?
7. What does Hearn have to say about relations between Orient and Occident?
8. Does the article reflect the modes of thought that we have termed Social Darwinism and Orientalism? If so, where and how?

### II. Specific Questions

1. What do the following phrases mean:
  - = the Race Ghost (p. 451a)
  - = the remembrance of a great city (p. 451a)
  - = a nomadic ancestry (p. 452a)
  - = some compensatory value [for the attachment to impermanence & smallness] (p. 454a)
  - = the tyranny of shoemakers (p. 455a)
  - = the struggle of life (p. 455b)
  - = our Babels of machinery (p. 456a)
  - = aggressive egotism (p. 457b)
2. Who are the following:
  - = Sakra (p. 453b)
  - = Professor Chamberlain (p. 455b)
  - = Ferdinand Brunetiere, and Lamennais (p. 457b)