

Unit 11

Reading A

Excerpts from Tao Te Ching 《道德经》选段

Lao Tzu 老子

Chapter 1

The way that can be told of is not an Unvarying Way;
The names that can be named are not unvarying names.
It was from the Nameless that Heaven and Earth sprang;
The named is but the mother that rears the ten thousand creatures, each after its kind.
Truly, "Only he that rids himself forever of desire can see the Secret Essences";
He that has never rid himself of desire can see only the Outcomes.
These two things issued from the same mould, but nevertheless are different in name.
This "same mould" we can but call the Mystery,
Or rather the "Darker than any Mystery",
The Doorway whence issued all Secret Essences.

第一章

道可道，非常道；名可名，非常名。
无名、天地之始；有名，万物之母。
故常无欲，以观其妙；常有欲，以观其徼。
此两者，同出而异名，同谓之玄。
玄之又玄，众妙之门。

Chapter 8

The highest good is like that of water.
The goodness of water is that it benefits the ten thousand creatures;
Yet itself does not scramble, but is content with the places that all men disdain.
It is this that makes water so near to the Way.
And if men think the ground the best place for building a house upon,
If among thoughts they value those that are profound,
If in friendship they value gentleness,
In words, truth; in government, good order;
In deeds, effectiveness; in actions, timeliness.
In each case it is because they prefer what does not lead to strife,
And therefore does not go amiss.

第八章

上善若水，水善利万物而不争。
处众人之所恶，故几于道。
居善地，心善渊，与善仁，言善信，正善治，事善能，动善时。
夫唯不争，故无尤。

Chapter 33

To understand others is to have knowledge;

To understand oneself is to be illumined.
To conquer others need strength;
To conquer oneself is harder still.
To be content with what one has is to be rich.
He that works through violence may get his way;
But only what stays in its place can endure.
When one dies one is not lost; there is no other longevity.

第三十三章

知人者智，自知者明。
胜人者有力，自胜者强。
知足者富，强行者有志。
不失其所者久，死而不亡者寿。

Chapter 40

In Tao the only motion is returning;
The only useful quality, weakness.
For though all creatures under heaven are the products of Being,
Being itself is the product of Not-being.

第四十章

反者道之动，弱者道之用。
天下万物生于有，有生于无。

Chapter 45

What is most perfect seems to have something missing;
Yet its use is unimpaired.
What is most full seems empty;
Yet its use will never fail.
What is most straight seems crooked;
The greatest skill seems like clumsiness,
The greatest eloquence like stuttering.
Movement overcomes cold;
But staying still overcomes heat.
So he by his limpid calm
Puts right everything under heaven.

第四十五章

大成若缺，其用不弊；
大盈若冲，其用不穷。
大直若屈，大巧若拙，大辩若讷。
躁胜寒，静胜热，清静为天下正。

Chapter 48

Learning consists in adding to one's stock day by day;
The practice of Tao consists in “subtracting day by day,
Subtracting and yet again subtracting

Till one has reached inactivity.
But by this very inactivity
Everything can be activated. ”
Those who of old won the adherence of all who live under heaven
All did so by not interfering.
Had they interfered,
They would never have won this adherence.

第四十八章

为学日益，为道日损，损之又损，以至于无为，无为而无不为。
取天下常以无事，及其有事，不足以取天下。

Chapter 57

“Kingdoms can only be governed if rules are kept;
Battles can only be won if rules are broken. ”
But the adherence of all under heaven can only be won by letting-along.
How do I know that it is so? By this:
The more prohibitions there are, the more ritual avoidances,
The poorer the people will be.
The more “sharp weapons” there are,
The more benighted will the whole land grow.
The more cunning craftsmen there are,
The more pernicious contrivances will be invented.
The more laws are promulgated,
The more thieves and bandits there will be.
Therefore a sage has said:
So long as I “do nothing” the people will of themselves be transformed.
So long as I love quietude, the people will of themselves go straight.
So long as I act only by inactivity the people will of themselves become prosperous.
So long as I have no wants the people will of themselves return to the “state of the Uncarved Block”.

第五十七章

以正治国，以奇用兵，以无事取天下。
吾何以知其然哉？以此：
天下多忌讳，而民弥贫；
人多利器，国家滋昏；人多伎巧，奇物滋起；
法令滋彰，盗贼多有。
故圣人云：
“我无为，而民自化；
我好静，而民自正；
我无事，而民自富；
我无欲，而民自朴。”