

## Becoming A Brilliant Star Self and Personal Style

(Ch 7)

The Master stays behind;  
that is why she is ahead.  
She is detached from all things;  
that is why she is one with them.  
Because she has let go of herself,  
she is perfectly fulfilled.

(Ch 8)

When you are content to be simply yourself  
and don't compare or compete,  
everybody will respect you.

(Ch 13)

What does it mean that hope is as hollow as  
fear?  
Hope and fear are both phantoms that arise  
from thinking of the self.  
When we don't see the self as self, what do  
we have to fear?

See the world as your self.  
Have faith in the way things are.  
Love the world as your self;  
then you can care for all things

(Ch 21)

Since before time and space were,  
the Tao is.  
It is beyond *is* and *is not*.  
How do I know this is true?  
I look inside myself and see.

(Ch 22)

If you want to become whole,  
let yourself be partial.  
If you want to become straight,  
let yourself be crooked.  
If you want to become full,  
let yourself be empty.  
If you want to be reborn,  
let yourself die.

If you want to be given everything,  
give everything up.

The Master, by residing in the Tao,  
sets an example for all beings.  
Because he doesn't display himself,  
people can see his light.  
Because he has nothing to prove,  
people can trust his words.  
Because he doesn't know who he is,  
people recognize themselves in him.  
Because he has no goal in mind,  
everything he does succeeds.

When the ancient Masters said,  
"If you want to be given everything, give  
everything up,"  
they weren't using empty phrases.  
Only in being lived by the Tao can you be  
truly yourself.

(Ch 23)

Express yourself completely,  
then keep quiet.  
Be like the forces of nature:  
when it blows, there is only wind;  
when it rains, there is only rain;  
when the clouds pass, the sun shines  
through.

If you open yourself to the Tao,  
you are at one with the Tao  
and you can embody it completely.  
If you open yourself to insight,  
you are at one with insight  
and you can use it completely.  
If you open yourself to loss,  
you are at one with loss  
and you can accept it completely.

Open yourself to the Tao,  
then trust your natural responses;  
and everything will fall into place.

(Ch 24)

He who stands on tiptoe  
doesn't stand firm.  
He who rushes ahead  
doesn't go far.  
He who tries to shine  
dims his own light.  
He who defines himself  
can't know who he really is.  
He who has power over others  
can't empower himself.  
He who clings to his work  
will create nothing that endures.  
If you want to accord with the Tao,  
just do your job, then let go.

(Ch 27)

A good traveler has no fixed plans  
and is not intent upon arriving.  
A good artist lets his intuition  
lead him wherever it wants.  
A good scientist has freed himself of  
concepts  
and keeps his mind open to what is.

(Ch 28)

Know the personal,  
yet keep to the impersonal:  
accept the world as it is.  
If you accept the world,  
the Tao will be luminous inside you  
and you will return to your primal self.

(Ch 33)

Knowing others is intelligence;  
knowing yourself is true wisdom.  
Mastering others is strength;  
mastering yourself is true power.

(Ch 44)

If you look to others for fulfillment,  
you will never truly be fulfilled.  
If your happiness depends on money,  
you will never be happy with yourself.

Compiled by: B. Matthews, July 1999

Source: Lao-Tzu. (1995). *Tao Te Ching* (Trans. by S. Mitchell). Available online:  
[\[http://www.edepot.com/tao4.html\]](http://www.edepot.com/tao4.html)

URL: <http://www.science-philosophy-religion.org/religion/taoism/brilstar/02self.pdf>