

Becoming A Brilliant Star Citizenship

Family

(Ch 8)

The supreme good is like water,
which nourishes all things without trying to.
It is content with the low places that people
disdain.

Thus it is like the Tao.

In dwelling, live close to the ground.

In thinking, keep to the simple.

In conflict, be fair and generous.

In governing, don't try to control.

In work, do what you enjoy.

In family life, be completely present.

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

(Ch 10)

Can you coax your mind from its wandering
and keep to the original oneness?

Can you let your body become
supple as a newborn child's?

Can you cleanse your inner vision
until you see nothing but the light?

Can you love people and lead them
without imposing your will?

Can you deal with the most vital matters
by letting events take their course?

Can you step back from you own mind
and thus understand all things?

Giving birth and nourishing,
having without possessing,
acting with no expectations,
leading and not trying to control:
this is the supreme virtue.

(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.

(Ch 42)

All things have their backs to the female
and stand facing the male.

When male and female combine,
all things achieve harmony.

(Ch 54)

Whoever is planted in the Tao
will not be rooted up.

Whoever embraces the Tao
will not slip away.

Her name will be held in honor
from generation to generation.

Let the Tao be present in your life
and you will become genuine.

Let it be present in your family
and your family will flourish.

Let it be present in your country
and your country will be an example
to all countries in the world.

Let it be present in the universe
and the universe will sing.

How do I know this is true?

By looking inside myself.

Work and Career

(Ch 9)

Fill your bowl to the brim
and it will spill.
Keep sharpening your knife
and it will blunt.
Chase after money and security
and your heart will never unclench.
Care about people's approval
and you will be their prisoner.

Do your work, then step back.
The only path to serenity.

Ch 13)

Success is as dangerous as failure.
Hope is as hollow as fear.

What does it mean that success is a
dangerous as failure?
Whether you go up the ladder or down it,
your position is shaky.
When you stand with your two feet on the
ground,
you will always keep your balance.

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 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 68)

The best athlete
wants his opponent at his best.
The best general
enters the mind of his enemy.
The best businessman
serves the communal good.
The best leader
follows the will of the people.

All of them embody
the virtue of non-competition.
Not that they don't love to compete,
but they do it in the spirit of play.
In this they are like children
and in harmony with the Tao.

Finances and Wealth

(From Ch 20)

Stop thinking, and end your problems.
What difference between yes and no?
What difference between success and
failure?
Must you value what others value,
avoid what others avoid?
How ridiculous!

(Ch 33)

If you realize that you have enough,
you are truly rich.
If you stay in the center
and embrace death with your whole heart,
you will endure forever.

(Ch 44)

Fame or integrity: which is more important?
Money or happiness: which is more
valuable?
Success or failure: which is more
destructive?

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.

Be content with what you have;
rejoice in the way things are.
When you realize there is nothing lacking,
the whole world belongs to you.

(Ch 53)

The great Way is easy,
yet people prefer the side paths.
Be aware when things are out of balance.
Stay centered within the Tao.

When rich speculators prosper
While farmers lose their land;
when government officials spend money
on weapons instead of cures;
when the upper class is extravagant and
irresponsible
while the poor have nowhere to turn-
all this is robbery and chaos.
It is not in keeping with the Tao.

(Ch 80)

If a country is governed wisely,
its inhabitants will be content.
They enjoy the labor of their hands
and don't waste time inventing
labor-saving machines.
Since they dearly love their homes,
they aren't interested in travel.
There may be a few wagons and boats,
but these don't go anywhere.
There may be an arsenal of weapons,
but nobody ever uses them.
People enjoy their food,
take pleasure in being with their families,
spend weekends working in their gardens,
delight in the doings of the neighborhood.
And even though the next country is so close
that people can hear its roosters crowing and
its dogs barking,
they are content to die of old age
without ever having gone to see it.

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

URL: <http://www.science-philosophy-religion.org/religion/taoism/brilstar/10citizen.pdf>