



Theosophical Society Point Loma - Blavatskyhouse

Literature, supporting the study (on Sunday, November **10**, 2024)
of the lecture of Herman Vermeulen (on Sunday, November **03**, 2024)

Series: **Universal Wisdom**

Lecture: **Helena Petrovna Blavatsky lecture**

Lao Tse, *Tao Teh Ching* (many editions)

Paradox 1

The Tao that can be told is not the eternal Tao.

The name that can be named is not the eternal name.

The nameless is the beginning of heaven and Earth.

The named is the mother of the ten thousand things.

Ever desireless, one can see the mystery.

Ever desiring, one sees the manifestations.

These two spring from the same source but differ in name; this appears as darkness.

Darkness within darkness. The gate to all mystery.

Paradox 42

The Tao begot one.

One begot two.

Two begot three.

And three begot the ten thousand things.

The ten thousand things carry yin and embrace yang.

They achieve harmony by combining these forces.

Men hate to be “orphaned,” “widowed,” or “worthless,”

But this is how kings and lords describe themselves.

For one gains by losing

And loses by gaining.

What others teach, I also teach; that is: “A violent man will die a violent death!”

This will be the essence of my teaching.

Paradox 38

A truly good man is not aware of his goodness, and is therefore good.

A foolish man tries to be good, and is therefore not good.

A truly good man does nothing, yet leaves nothing undone.

A foolish man is always doing, yet much remains to be done.

When a truly kind man does something, he leaves nothing undone.

When a just man does something, he leaves a great deal to be done.

When a disciplinarian does something and no one responds,

He rolls up his sleeves in an attempt to enforce order.

Therefore when Tao is lost, there is goodness.

When goodness is lost, there is kindness.

When kindness is lost, there is justice.

When justice is lost, there ritual.

Now ritual is the husk of faith and loyalty, the beginning of confusion.

Knowledge of the future is only a flowery trapping of Tao.

It is the beginning of folly.

Therefore the truly great man dwells on what is real and not what is on the surface,

On the fruit and not the flower.

Therefore accept the one and reject the other.

Paradox 43

The softest thing in the universe overcomes the hardest thing in the universe.

That without substance can enter where there is no room.

Hence I know the value of non-action.

Teaching without words and work without doing

Are understood by very few.

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