

## Tao Te Ching by Lao Tzu

(Translation by Derek Lin 2006)

The Tao that can be spoken is not the eternal Tao  
The name that can be named is not the eternal name  
The nameless is the origin of Heaven and Earth  
The name is the mother of myriad things – the “ten thousand things” [diverse manifest phenomena]  
Thus, constantly without desire, one observes its essence  
Constantly with desire, one observes its manifestations  
These two emerge together but differ in name  
The unity is said to be the mystery  
Mystery of mysteries, the door of wonders (verse 1)

The Tao produces one  
One produces two – yin and yang  
Two [in interaction with each other] produces three  
Three produces myriad things – the “ten thousand things”  
Myriad things, backed yin and embracing yang  
Achieve harmony by integrating their energy  
What people dislike  
Are alone, bereft, and unworthy  
But the rulers call themselves with these terms (from verse 42)