

WISE WORDS FROM LAO TZE - 5000 YEARS AGO



These are wise sayings from Lao Tze over 5000 years ago. Read them carefully and then discuss what you think they mean.

The journey of 1000 miles begins with one step.

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.

Man's enemies are not demons, but human beings, like him.

To realise that you don't understand is a virtue. Not to realise that you don't understand is a defect.

The key to growth is the introduction of higher dimensions of consciousness into our awareness.

To know, yet to think that one does not know is best; not to know, yet to think that one does know will lead to difficulty.

Knowing others is intelligence. Knowing yourself is true wisdom. Mastering others is strength. Mastering yourself is true power.

He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened.

He who knows that enough is enough will always have enough.

He who obtains has little. He who scatters has much.

Great acts are made up of small deeds.

The wise man does not lay up his own treasures. The more he gives to others, the more he has for his own.

Treat those who are good with goodness, and also treat those who are not good with goodness. Thus goodness is attained.

Be honest to those who are honest, and also be honest to those who are not honest. Thus honesty is attained.

Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.



Of all that is good, sublimity is supreme. Succeeding is the coming together of all of all that is beautiful. Furtherance is the agreement of all that is just. Perseverance is the foundation of all actions.

To lead people, walk behind them. To lead people, walk beside them.

As for the best leaders, the people do not notice their existence. The next best, the people honour and praise. The next the people fear; and the next the people hate. When the best leaders' work is done, the people will say, "We did it ourselves."

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

If you do not change direction, you might end up where you are heading.

The words of truth are always paradoxical.

If you are not sure what some of these words mean, look them up in a thesaurus.



Lao Tse, fl. 6th century BCE) was a philosopher of ancient China, best known as the author of the Tao Te Ching (often simply referred to as Laozi). His association with the Tào Té Chīng has led him to be traditionally considered the founder of philosophical **Taoism** (pronounced as "Daoism"). He is also revered as a deity in most religious forms of Taoist philosophy, which often refers to Laozi as Taishang Laojun, or "One of the Three Pure Ones".

According to Chinese traditions, Laozi lived in the 6th century BCE. Some historians contend that he actually lived in the 5th-4th century BCE, concurrent with the Hundred Schools of Thought and Warring States Period,[2] while some others argue that Laozi is a synthesis of multiple historical figures or that he is a mythical figure.

A central figure in Chinese culture, both nobility and common people claim Laozi in their lineage. He was honored as an ancestor of the Tang imperial family, and was granted the title Táishāng xuānyuán huángdì, meaning "Supreme Mysterious and Primordial Emperor". Throughout history, Laozi's work has been embraced by various anti-authoritarian movements.



According to legends, Laozi leaves China on his water buffalo



A stone sculpture of Laozi, located north of Quanzhou at the foot of Mount Qingyuan

道

The Chinese Taoist Association advocates ecology. This can be explained by the fact that Taoism places a special significance to nature. As they put it, people should live in harmony with nature instead of trying to conquer it.

The Chinese character Tào or Dào ("Way").

Wu Wei is an important tenet of Taoism that involves knowing when to act and when not to act. Another perspective to this is that "Wu Wei" means natural action - as planets revolve around the sun, they "do" this revolving, but without "doing" it; Or as trees grow, they "do", but without "doing". Thus knowing when (and how) to act is not knowledge in the sense that one would think "now" is the right time to do "this", but rather just doing it, doing the natural thing.

<http://www.taoists.co.uk/>

From what you have read and discussed, what is the saying that you think is the most important or interesting? Have any of the sayings affected you? How?

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The Three Pure Ones.

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