21

The greatest Virtue is to follow Tao and Tao alone.

The Tao is elusive and intangible. Oh, it is intangible and elusive, and yet within is image.

Oh, it is elusive and intangible, and yet within is form.

Oh, it is dim and dark, and yet within is essence.

This essence is very real, and therein lies faith.

From the very beginning until now its name has never been forgotten. Thus I perceive the creation.

How do I know the ways of creation? Because of this.

21

The Master keeps her mind

always at one with the Tao; that is what gives her her radiance.

The Tao is ungraspable. How can her mind be at one with it? Because she doesn't cling to ideas.

The Tao is dark and unfathomable. How can it make her radiant? Because she lets it.

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.

21

Great Te appears Flowing from Tao. Tao in action - Only vague and intangible. Intangible and vague, But within it are images. Vague and intangible; Within are entities. Shadowy and obscure; Within there is life, Life so real, That within it there is trust.

From the beginning its name is not lost But reappears through multiple origins.

How do I know these origins? Like this.

21

The appearance of great virtue Follows only the Tao The Tao, as a thing Seems indistinct, seems unclear So unclear, so indistinct Within it there is image So indistinct, so unclear Within it there is substance So deep, so profound Within it there is essence Its essence is supremely real Within it there is faith From ancient times to the present Its name never departs To observe the source of all things How do I know the nature of the source? With this

21

The greatest virtue you can have comes from following only the Tao; which takes a form that is intangible and evasive.

Even though the Tao is intangible and evasive, we are able to know it exists. Intangible and evasive, yet it has a manifestation.
Secluded and dark, yet there is a vitality within it.
Its vitality is very genuine.
Within it we can find order.

Since the beginning of time, the Tao has always existed.
It is beyond existing and not existing.
How do I know where creation comes from?
I look inside myself and see it.

↑ Gia-Fu Feng

↑ Stephen Mitchell

↑ Stephen Addiss & Stanley Lombardo

^ Derek Lin

^ J.H. McDonald