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Give up sainthood, renounce wisdom,
And it will be a hundred times better for
everyone.

Give up kindness, renounce morality,
And men will rediscover filial piety and
love.

Give up ingenuity, renounce profit,
And bandits and thieves will disappear.

These three are outward forms alone; they
are not sufficient in themselves.
It is more important
To see the simplicity,
To realize one's true nature,
To cast off selfishness
And temper desire.

19

Throw away holiness and wisdom,
and people will be a hundred times
happier.

Throw away morality and justice,
and people will do the right thing.
Throw away industry and profit,
and there won't be any thieves.

If these three aren't enough,
just stay at the center of the circle
and let all things take their course.

19

Banish learning, discard knowledge:
People will gain a hundredfold.
Banish benevolence, discard
righteousness: People will return to duty
and compassion.
Banish skill, discard profit: There will be
no more thieves.
These three statements are not enough.
One more step is necessary.
Look at plain silk; hold uncarved wood.
The self dwindles; desires fade.

19

Discontinue sagacity, abandon
knowledge
The people benefit a hundred times
Discontinue benevolence, abandon
righteousness
The people return to piety and charity
Discontinue cunning, discard profit
Bandits and thieves no longer exist
These three things are superficial and
insufficient
Thus this teaching has its place:
Show plainness, hold simplicity
Reduce selfishness, decrease desires

19

Forget about knowledge and wisdom,
and people will be a hundred times better
off.
Throw away charity and righteousness,
and people will return to brotherly love.
Throw away profit and greed,
and there won't be any thieves.

These three are superficial and aren't
enough
to keep us at the center of the circle, so we
must also:

Embrace simplicity.
Put others first.
Desire little.