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Do you think you can take over the universe  
and improve it?  
I do not believe it can be done.

The universe is sacred.  
You cannot improve it.  
If you try to change it, you will ruin it.  
If you try to hold it, you will lose it.

So sometimes things are ahead and  
sometimes they are behind;  
Sometimes breathing is hard, sometimes it  
comes easily;  
Sometimes there is strength and  
sometimes weakness;  
Sometimes one is up and sometimes  
down.

Therefore the sage avoids extremes,  
excesses, and complacency.

29

Do you want to improve the world?  
I don't think it can be done.

The world is sacred.  
It can't be improved.

If you tamper with it, you'll ruin it.  
If you treat it like an object, you'll lose it.

There is a time for being ahead,  
a time for being behind;  
a time for being in motion,  
a time for being at rest;  
a time for being vigorous,  
a time for being exhausted;

a time for being safe,  
a time for being in danger.

The Master sees things as they are,  
without trying to control them.  
She lets them go their own way,  
and resides at the center of the circle.

29

Trying to control the world? I see you won't  
succeed.

The world is a spiritual vessel And cannot  
be controlled. Those who control, fail.  
Those who grasp, lose.  
Some go forth, some are led, Some weep,  
some blow flutes, Some become strong,  
some superfluous, Some oppress, some are  
destroyed.  
Therefore the Sage Casts off extremes,  
Casts off excess, Casts off Extravagance.

29

Those who wish to take the world and  
control it  
I see that they cannot succeed  
The world is a sacred instrument  
One cannot control it  
The one who controls it will fail  
The one who grasps it will lose  
Because all things:  
Either lead or follow  
Either blow hot or cold  
Either have strength or weakness  
Either have ownership or take by force  
Therefore the sage:  
Eliminates extremes  
Eliminates excess  
Eliminates arrogance

29

Do you want to rule the world and control  
it?  
I don't think it can ever be done.

The world is a sacred vessel  
and it can not be controlled.  
You will only make it worse if you try.  
It may slip through your fingers and  
disappear.

Some are meant to lead,  
and others are meant to follow;  
Some must always strain,  
and others have an easy time;  
Some are naturally big and strong,  
and others will always be small;  
Some will be protected and nurtured,  
and others will meet with destruction.

The Master accepts things as they are,  
and out of compassion avoids  
extravagance,  
excess and the extremes.