Tao Te Ching Translations, Step 1

Chapter 1 **第一章**

道可道，非常道。

Tao can Tao, great vast (not common) Tao

名可名，非常名。

names can be named, great vast (not common) name

(That which can not be talk about, must be passed over in silence)

無名天地之始, 有名萬物之母。

anonymous (nameless) world (sky and ground) of beginning, famous things (10,000 things) her mother

故常無欲, 以觀其妙。

common/constant reason not want (unselfish), will watch its/their wonderful/subtle

常有欲, 以觀其徼。

Often to desire/want, will watch its/their boundary

此兩者同出, 而異名, 同謂之玄。

This both from the same (similar), whatever the name (nickname), with the (so called) mysterious.

玄之又玄，眾妙之門。

metaphysics (mysterious it) also mysterious (or single word occult), wonderful things gateway (the door).

Chapter 2 第二章

天下皆知美之為美斯惡已;

world know beauty as/because beauty given/whereas/this detest/bad

皆知善之為善斯不善已。

know good/virtuous as/because good given/whereas/this not good-has-been

故有無相生,

therefore have not mutually born,

難易相成,

difficult easy mutually become,

長短相形,

long short mutually compare

高下相傾,

high low mutually trend

音聲相和,

sound voice mutually harmonize

前後相隨。

before after mutually with (together)

是以聖人處無為之事, 行不言之教。

is with sage at not of things, professional goes without saying of teaching

萬物作焉而不辭。

things (10,000 things) make how and endure

生而不有, 為而不恃, 功成而弗居。

born and not have, because and not rely, become successful not reside(store up),

夫唯弗居, 是以不去。

husband alone not reside(store up), is with not go(begone)

Chapter 3 第三章

不尚賢, 使民不爭。

not praising special ones, make/cause people not dispute.

不貴難得之貨，使民不為盜。

not pay high for rare goods, not make people thieves

不見可欲, 使民心不亂。

not see desirable, not make people's heart/mind into chaos

是以聖人之治, 虛其心, 實其腹, 弱其志, 強其骨。

The sage will rule, emptying the hearts, inferior/young their aspiration, strengthen their health.

常使民無知無欲, 使夫智者不敢為也。

often make people not know not want, make other wise leaders not dare as well.

為無為, 則無不治。

because idleness, law no not rule/control

Chapter 4 第四章

道沖, 而用之, 或不盈。

Tao water/ocean, and use of, or not gain.

淵兮, 似萬物之宗。

Abyss/deep pool (deep abyss), like everything of cases.

挫其銳, 解其紛, 和其光, 同其塵。

Setback of its sharp, understand/solution (its) numerous/many, mix/join (its) brightness, with (its) dust.

湛兮似或存。

deep/profound appearance or keep/store

吾不知誰之子 , 象帝之先。

I not know who the child of, like the emperor of the first

Chapter 5 第五章

天地不仁, 以萬物為芻狗。

Heaven and earth not humane, treat things like straw dogs.

聖人不仁, 以百姓為芻狗。

The sage not humane, treat common people like straw dogs.

天地之間, 其猶橐籥乎

Between heaven and earth, its like bellows.

虛而不屈, 動而愈出。

empty/void/abyss and unyielding, motion and recover out.

多言數窮, 不如守中。

to say too much is loss, better to keep it in.

Chapter 6 第六章

谷神不死是謂玄牝。

Valley spirit Immortal is called the Mysterious female

玄牝之門是謂天地根。

Mysterious female gateway is called root of heaven and

earth

綿綿若存,用之不勤。

soft soft (or rain or continuous) store/reserve, used sedentary(lifestyle with no or irregular physical activity)

Chapter 7 第七章

天長地久。

Forever.

天地所以能長且久者, 以其不自生, 故能長生。

Heaven and earth (The world) forever therefore can length and long by, not self life, and can length live.

是以聖人後其身而身先，外其身而身存。

is with sage: after its person and before, outside its self and after

非以其無私邪?

non-self (or not for self) i am nothing (i am not) demonic/bad spirit

故能成其私。

therefore can become self/private-affairs

Chapter 8 第八章

上善若水。

水善利萬物而不爭,處眾人之所惡,故幾於道。

居善地,心善淵與善仁,言善信,正善治,事善能,動善時。

夫唯不爭,故無尤。

Character Conversion Steps

I used an online tool ([web page](#)) to convert Chinese characters to Unicode.

Example: convert 中 to &#20013;.

Conversion from Unicode to HTML/XML string:

- 中 is Unicode: \u4e2d.

- Convert the hexadecimal number to decimal.

Example: u4e2d 200013.

- The HTML/XML string is: 中, which converts in the browser to 中.

Steps to get and convert a Chinese character:

1. Get the Chinese character using Google translate.

2. Put the character into an OpenOffice document.

3. Save the document as HTML. The decimal Unicode character (HTML string) is in the HTML, example: 中 for 中