

Introduction

The original Tao Te Ching poetic chapters were written by hand over two thousand years ago, in old Chinese, by old Lao Tzu; 老子, literal translation is, Old Master. This translation was accomplished using Google services and my Asian skills.

My interest in Chinese language began with the *I Ching*, and expanded with my interest in Chinese during university and at work after graduation. My Chinese travel experience and my computer experience, lead to my teaching seminars to Asian university students and faculty members in places such as Beijing University. When traveling for business I worked in their offices, I made friends, we talked, we ate, I was experiencing the Chinese culture.

Tao Te Ching characters were selectively feed into Google translate a few at a time. Google's Great Databanks of language mappings from Chinese to English, written by thousands of people, were accessed to produce English words and phrases. I edited the output into proper English. I interpreted the edited output into this fresh new translation.

An example from Traditional Chinese Tao Te Ching characters, to Google translate words, to proper English, then interpreted English.

知者不博 博者不知 知者不博 博者不知

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

We know beauty as beauty because of ugliness.

2/ Stacy David

A thing of beauty is a joy forever; ugliness is not.

Each chapter interpretation is followed by a Taoist prospective of traveling Asia.

- Stacy David

Passport and Visas

If you are from Canada or USA, you only need a passport to enter Singapore, or the Chinese cities of Hong Kong and Macau.



A pre-approved visa is needed to enter other parts of China.

Section I

...

1. Naming the Tao

That which cannot be talked about must be passed over in silence, and since the Tao cannot talk about, we give it a name, Tao. It is only a name.

It was before the Big Bang,

It was the Originator of heaven and earth.

It is the source from what we know.

Without desire we wonder.

With desire we see the creations.

Wondering is from the source, creations are from the source and have names.

Tao is on the other side of the gateway to this world.

2. Ying and Yang of Work

A thing of beauty is a joy forever; ugliness is not.

We know good as good; evil is not good.

Existence and non-existence are beside each other.

Difficulty and ease contrast each other.

Length and shortness are relative.

High and low are in opposing locations.

Before and behind follow each other.

Musical notes and tones are harmonious.

The wise manager does not do, but guides others to.

The wise guide conveys instructions with little talk.

They create designs, however they are modest and do not take ownership of the creations from their patents.

They have skills, not physical inventory.

3. Tao of Marketing

Treating equals as equals in equal stations, prevents contention and disputes.

Not prizing rare articles, keeps people from expensive wants.

Not seeing desirable articles, keeps their mind free from impulse buying.

Therefore the sage marketer controls people's desires, and strives to keep them healthy, wealthy, and wise.

By successful, high level, broad marketing, wise leaders in their specific areas do not interfere with the larger complementary view.

What seems like inaction is actually guiding and controlling.

4. Open Minds to New Ideas

Tao is the emptiness of a vessel, which we must be guard against overflow, loss, and confusion.

It is the Ancestor of all, deep and unfathomable from which all things have sprung.

Temper your brightness, blunt your sharpness, soften your hardness, simplify your complications.

We should come into agreements with what seems at first, the obscurity of others, and integrate with them.

The Tao is pure, still, and compliments the world, it can continue forever.

With emptiness of mind, and openness to others, children of ideas spring forth.

5. Keep a Secret

Heaven and earth do not act from any wish to be benevolent.

They deal with all things as straw dogs are dealt with in rituals.

The sages do not act from any wish to be benevolent, they deal with the people as the straw dogs are dealt with.

The space between heaven and earth are as bellows.

The emptiness is its potential power.

When moved, it sends forth its power of air.

However, too much talking leads to exhaustion.

Rest your inner being, unmoving guard it and keep it free.

No need to tell the straw dogs.

6. Female

The Valley Spirit lives on, it is called the female mystery, the gateway from which all is issued forth.

It is the root from which grew heaven and earth.

Use it gentle, and so it will continue.

ف ٠ اُ

□ ل ن Õ م ف □ □ □

Valley spirit Immortal is called the Mysterious female

☐ ☐ پ ل ن ٹ ☐ v ☐

Mysterious female gateway is called root of heaven and earth

☐ ☐ $\tilde{\alpha}$ ☐ ☐ ☐

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

7. Endurance through Philanthropy

Heaven and earth are enduring.

They do not live for themselves, and so, they are able to continue and endure as they are.

In the queue for worldly things, a sage puts others before them.

The Others are grateful and say, “Thank you,” thereby putting the sage before them.

The sage treats their personal self as if it is separate, foreign.

They have little or no personal goals, and therefore, their goals can be, and are, realized.

As they see themselves, that which they see is preserved.

8. Go With the Flow

The Tao is the source from which all things flow.

The highest good is like water, it benefits life without trying.

It flows naturally to where it will lay comfortably in low places which people normally avoid.

In life, find a suitable place.

In mind, be calm and still to allow creative thought. A cluttered mind has no room for new ideas. Listening constantly to others, and you cannot hear your own ideas.

In conversation and writing, be self honest, keep secret to yourself what should not be made public.

When acting on your decisions, be skillful and watch your timing.

Good order will follow.

Avoid confrontation, flow around problems and still get to your natural destination without a battle.

Section II

...

Translation Notes

The Tao Te Ching is a short book, a series of poems, of about 5,000 Chinese characters. It has 81 short chapters. It has two parts: Part One is the Tao Ching (U'), which is chapters 1-37; Part Two is the Te Ching (A), which is chapters 38-81.

When using Google Translate, how the characters are separated, is key to interpretation.

Example from chapter 2:

□ ㄅ --- And refuses

Separated as follows, gives different words.

□ --- Born

ㄅ --- Not have

Following the theme, it is translated as:

They do not take ownership for creations built from their patents.

Stories to remember characters.

Man 人 , and a stroke 一 , gives big 大 .

Big 大 , and a stroke 一 on top, gives heaven 天 .

For man(人), the big(大) one(一) place above, is heaven 天 .

It common to see small 小 , medium 中 , large 大 on

14 / Stacy David

Chinese menus.

𩚑 looks like the saloon doors of the nightclub in the movie Suzie Wong, or old Western movie saloon doors.

Other Characters for my reference:

Time references:

Year 𠂇

Sun 日

Moon 月

Time 𠂇

Man 人

Big 大

Medium, central, main 中

Small 小

Heart/mind 心

River 河

Water 水

Mountain 山

峠 (mountain pass) is made from 山 (mountain), 上 (up), and 下 (down).

Recognizing Chinese Characters

The first step to reading another language is to recognize their letters and words. In Chinese, it is recognize the patterns in Chinese characters.

—

This one stroke Chinese character, —, represents the number one (1).

==

The combination of two strokes, ==, represents the number two (2).

≡

Of course you have guessed the pattern and know that ≡ is the Chinese character for three (3).

There it is, reading Chinese is as straight forward as reading — = ≡.

Chinese characters are built using basic shapes and strokes. Combine the basic shape of a rectangle with the basic of stroke (a line) —, to make the Chinese character for sun 日.

A crescent Moon shape stroke 丿 is use to make, the character for moon 月.

Complex Chinese characters are built from combinations of simpler characters. Combine the sun and moon as one Chinese character and you have the character for bright or smart 明.

You are 𠄎, if you can recognize the Chinese characters: 𠄎 . □ 𠄎 𠄎 .

An archway is a gateway

The Chinese character for *gate* is 門 looks like the gateway into the Po Lin Monastery. The character for sun, or day, is 日 . The character for *time* 時 is gate 門 and day 日 . To help remember time 時 , time is the gateway 門 to a new day 日 .



The gateway in the photo leads to the Big Buddha on top a mountain, Lantau Island, Hong Kong. To get there from Central, take the subway to catch a light rail train to Tung Chung, close to the airport. Then ride a cable car up to the newly built village. Walk through the gateway into the Po Lin monastery.

Section III

...

Other Material

Look at the photo of the wall again. Is Beijing to the left or right?

When countries become less volatile, the walls lose their function and become symbols of the past. Some symbols are so painful, they are destroyed, walls are torn down. In times of prosperity, castles are replaced by palaces and mansions for royalty and extended families.

>> Beijing is to the left.

Which are you?

1. Some do not care.
2. Some wait for others to give them the answers.
3. Some figure out the answers before others.
4. Some create the mysteries for others to solve.

If tallest buildings in the world is economic indicator, China is an up and coming country.

Another reason for Chinese tourists in Thailand, is the familiarity of Buddhism.

The Great Wall of China



Wonders

How do I get there, and are there restaurants nearby?

What is it?

The Creation Itself

From Beijing, it is over an hour to the Great Wall by bus or car. There are lots of places to park. Anyone there can walk up and onto the wall at designated locations. Some points can be reached by cable car. And yes, where Chinese tour, there are always places to eat.

The wall was constructed with great stone, as was the castles of England. The two Chinese Characters for *Great Wall*, translate into *Long City*. Europe built castles for its city people. China built a long city castle wall to protect and unite its people against northern forces.

Take a break

Walk along the Singapore River flowing waters and sit across from the British Colonial Buildings.



Regular travelers to Asia, agree that Singapore is the first step recommended to people with culture shock worries. English is a national language of Singapore. The next city on the low culture shock list is Hong Kong. English is prominent because Hong Kong was a British colony for 99 years. Both cities have excellent, similar, subway systems, and reasonably priced taxis.

Their governments have administration features of the British system, as does India as well.

Business View

Overlooking Hong Kong harbor and Kowloon city from the 66th. floor of the Central Plaza tower on Hong Kong island.



British colonial leaders joined with Chinese business people to expand Hong Kong's economic administration and sales force. These Chinese business leaders partnered with Americans, Germans, Italians, and others, to develop a worldwide marketing and distribution system. As China prospers, products made in partner country are flowing back into China.

The new rich and growing Chinese middle class are becoming the largest economic market in the world.

Hong Kong harbor fishing



In the foreground is the old tradition of fishing with a bamboo pole.

In the background is a city built with a natural shipping harbor that is home to traders making agreements with businesses outside of China, and with mainland Chinese companies. The industrious Chinese build products sold internationally through Hong Kong. The growing rich Chinese population buys international products shipping in through Hong Kong. Hong Kong services include business document translation to the languages of their partner companies.

Ice Skating at Beijing University



As business people are graduates of universities, international academic relations were established. This lead to further knowledge mergers.

For example, the local Chinese offices of Sun Microsystems, with their American office associates, held a computer learning exchange event at the Beijing University.

As one of the instructors at Learning event, and being an ice hockey Canadian, if I had know this secret, I would have brought my ice skates.

Happy Valley Race Track

Hong Kong takes a philanthropic approach to gambling. The Hong Kong Jockey Club is the largest taxpayer in Hong Kong, as well as the largest private donor of charity funds in region.



Buddhist monk reading beside flowing water

It is a good idea to take an interesting boat ride through the klongs (canals) of Bangkok.



Thailand has a large Chinese community heritage. As China trade and business grow, the Thai Chinese grow their businesses.

More Chinese tour to Thailand to enjoy the attractions of cultural entertainment, beaches, shopping, and food. Also, the number of Japanese restaurants are increasing to fill the demand by Japanese working at their Thailand factories. Positive examples of cultural economic exchange.