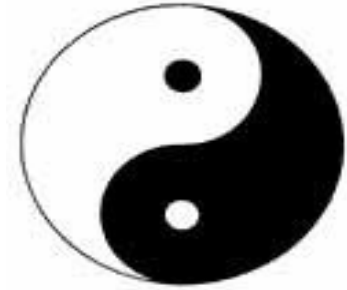


Taoist views: Oneness of Humanity, Peace and the Environment



"Trees and animals, humans and insects, flowers and birds: these are active images of the subtle energies that flow from the stars throughout the universe. Meeting and combining with each other and the elements of the Earth, they give rise to all living things. The superior person understands this, and understands that her own energies play a part in it. Understanding these things, she respects the Earth as her mother, the heavens as her father, and all living things as her brothers and sisters."

"Those who want to know the truth of the universe should practice...reverence for all life; this manifests as unconditional love and respect for oneself and all other beings." - LAO TZU (translated by Brian Walker)

This is the first principle of Taoism: Oneness. There is not "just us," or "just nature," but both. - Derek Lin

道

Taoists speak of a harmony among all aspects of nature, and say "Heaven and earth and I live together."

www.askasia.org/teachers/Instructional_Resources/Lesson_Plans/China/LP_china_2.htm

A clear mind comes from the wonderful fundamental essence given us by nature and it is not a personal possession.

www.flowingshands.com/mbs_html/mbs.art.clear.mind.htm

The **Dao De Jing** says: *'Humanity follows the Earth, the Earth follows Heaven, Heaven follows the Dao, and the Dao follows what is natural.'* Daoists, therefore, obey the Earth. The Earth respects Heaven, Heaven abides by the Dao, and the Dao follows the natural course of everything. Humans should help everything grow according to its own way. We should cultivate the way of no-action and let nature be itself.

Condensed into a single phrase, the injunction of Lao Tzu to mankind is, *'Follow Nature.'*

- **Lionel Giles: *Book of Lieh-tzu*, 1912**

"Taoism looks for universal unity." - www.omf.org