

Tao Te Ching - 3

3

Not exalting the gifted prevents quarreling.
Not collecting treasures prevents stealing.
Not seeing desirable things prevents confusion of the heart.

The wise therefore rule by emptying hearts and stuffing bellies, by weakening ambitions and strengthening bones.
If men lack knowledge and desire, then clever people will not try to interfere.
If nothing is done, then all will be well.

3

If you overesteem great men, people become powerless.
If you overvalue possessions, people begin to steal.

The Master leads by emptying people's minds and filling their cores, by weakening their ambition and toughening their resolve.
He helps people lose everything they know, everything they desire, and creates confusion in those who think that they know.

Practice not-doing, and everything will fall into place.

3

If you overly esteem talented individuals, people will become overly competitive.
If you overvalue possessions, people will begin to steal.

Do not display your treasures or people will become envious.

The Master leads by emptying people's minds, filling their bellies, weakening their ambitions, and making them become strong.
Preferring simplicity and freedom from desires, avoiding the pitfalls of knowledge and wrong action.

For those who practice not-doing, everything will fall into place.

3

If you love accumulation Gain and increase every day
Thieves and robbers will be waiting
Just to take it all away

Best to be so empty-headed That it seems you've lost it all
You will know you're on the way
Though others say you're at a stall

3

If you toss compliments around freely, people will waste your time trying to impress you.
If you give things too much value, you're going to get ripped off.
If you try to please people, you'll just make them pissed.

The Master leads by clearing the crap out of people's heads and opening their hearts.
He lowers their aspirations and makes them suck in their guts.

He shows you how to forget what you know and what you want, so nobody can push you around.
If you think you've got the answers, he'll mess with your head.

Stop doing stuff all the time, and watch what happens.

^ Gia-Fu Feng

^ Stephen Mitchell

^ J.H. McDonald

^ Jim Clatfelter

^ Ron Hogan

By not elevating the worthy, you bring it about that people will not compete.
By not valuing goods that are hard to obtain, you bring it about that people will not act like thieves.
By not displaying the desirable you bring it about that people will not be confused.

Therefore, in the government of the Sage:
He empties their minds,

And fills their bellies.
Weakens their ambition,
And strengthens their bones.

He constantly causes the people to be without knowledge and without desires.
If he can bring it about that those with knowledge simply do not dare to act,
Then there is nothing that will not be in order.

- Robert Henricks