

# Tao Te Ching - 5

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Heaven and Earth are impartial;  
They see the ten thousand things  
as straw dogs.  
The wise are impartial;  
They see the people as straw  
dogs.

The space between heaven and  
Earth is like a bellows.  
The shape changes but not the  
form;  
The more it moves, the more it  
yields.  
More words count less.  
Hold fast to the center.

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The Tao doesn't take sides;  
it gives birth to both good and  
evil.  
The Master doesn't take sides;  
she welcomes both saints and  
sinners.

The Tao is like a bellows:  
it is empty yet infinitely capable.  
The more you use it, the more it  
produces;  
the more you talk of it, the less  
you understand.  
  
Hold on to the center.

5

Heaven and Earth are impartial;  
they treat all of creation as straw  
dogs.  
The Master doesn't take sides;  
she treats everyone like a straw  
dog.

The space between Heaven and  
Earth is like a bellows;  
it is empty, yet has not lost its  
power.  
The more it is used, the more it  
produces;  
the more you talk of it, the less  
you comprehend.

It is better not to speak of things  
you do not understand.

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This emptiness is truly void  
And infinitely capacious  
It holds whatever comes its way  
Eternally tenacious

Can you take whatever comes?  
Though judgment calls it bad and  
good  
Seeing is acceptance  
And nothing to be understood

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Tao's neutral:  
it doesn't worry about good or  
evil.  
The Masters are neutral:  
they treat everyone the same.  
Lao Tzu said Tao is like a bellows:  
It's empty,  
but it could help set the world on  
fire.  
If you keep using Tao, it works  
better.  
If you keep talking about it,  
it won't make any sense.

Be cool.

^ Gia-Fu Feng

^ Stephen Mitchell

^ J.H. McDonald

^ Jim Clatfelter

^ Ron Hogan

Heaven and Earth are not humane;  
They regard the thousand things as straw dogs.  
The Sage is not humane;  
He regards the common people as straw dogs.

The space between Heaven and Earth—is it not like a bellow?  
It is empty and yet not depleted;  
Move it and more [always] comes out.  
Much learning means frequent exhaustions.  
That's not so good as holding on to the mean.

- Robert Henricks