48

In the pursuit of learning, every day
something is acquired.
In the pursuit of Tao, every day something is
dropped.

Less and less is done
Until non-action is achieved.
When nothing is done, nothing is left
undone.

The world is ruled by letting things take their
course.
It cannot be ruled by interfering.

49

The sage has no mind of his own.
He is aware of the needs of others.

I am good to people who are good.
I am also good to people who are not good.
Because Virtue is goodness.
I have faith in people who are faithful.
I also have faith in people who are not
faithful.
Because Virtue is faithfulness.

The sage is shy and humble - to the world he
seems confusing.
Others look to him and listen.
He behaves like a little child.

Gia-Fu Feng

48

In pursuit of knowledge,
every day something is added.
In the practice of the Tao,
every day something is dropped.
Less and less do you need to force things,
until finally you arrive at non-action.
When nothing is done,
nothing is left undone.

True mastery can be gained
by letting things go their own way.
It can't be gained by interfering.

49

The Master has no mind of her own.
She works with the mind of the people.

She is good to people who are good.
She is also good to people who aren't good.
This is true goodness.

She trusts people who are trustworthy.
She also trusts people who aren't trustworthy.
This is true trust.

The Master's mind is like space.
People don't understand her.
They look to her and wait.
She treats them like her own children.

Stephen Mitchell

48

Pursue knowledge, gain daily. Pursue Tao,
lose daily. Lose and again lose, Arrive at non-
doing.
Non-doing - and nothing not done.
Take the entire world as nothing. Make the
least effort, And the world escapes you.

49

The Sage has no set heart. Ordinary people's
hearts Become the Sage's heart.
People who are good I treat well. People who
are not good I also treat well: Te as goodness.
Trustworthy people I trust. Untrustworthy
people I also trust. Te as trust.
Sages create harmony under heaven Blending
their hearts with the world. Ordinary people
fix their eyes and ears upon them, But Sages
become the world's children.

Stephen Addiss & Stanley Lombardo

48

Pursue knowledge, daily gain
Pursue Tao, daily loss
Loss and more loss
Until one reaches non-action
With non-action, there is nothing one cannot
do
Take the world by constantly applying non-
interference
The one who interferes is not qualified to take
the world

49

The sages have no constant mind
They take the mind of the people as their
mind
Those who are good, I am good to them
Those who are not good, I am also good to
them
Thus the virtue of goodness
Those who believe, I believe them
Those who do not believe, I also believe them
Thus the virtue of belief
The sages live in the world
They cautiously merge their mind for the
world
The people all pay attention with their ears
and eyes
The sages care for them as children

Derek Lin

48

One who seeks knowledge learns something
new every day.
One who seeks the Tao unlearns something
new every day.
Less and less remains until you arrive at non-
action.
When you arrive at non-action,
nothing will be left undone.

Mastery of the world is achieved
by letting things take their natural course.
You can not master the world by changing the
natural way.

49

The Master has no mind of her own.
She understands the mind of the people.

Those who are good she treats as good.
Those who aren't good she also treats as good.
This is how she attains true goodness.

She trusts people who are trustworthy.
She also trusts people who aren't trustworthy.
This is how she gains true trust.

The Master's mind is shut off from the world.
Only for the sake of the people does she
muddle her mind.
They look to her in anticipation.
Yet she treats them all as her children.

J.H. McDonald