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These things from ancient times arise from one:
 The sky is whole and clear.
 The earth is whole and firm.
 The spirit is whole and strong.
 The valley is whole and full.
 The ten thousand things are whole and alive.
 Kings and lords are whole, and the country is upright.
 All these are in virtue of wholeness.

The clarity of the sky prevents its falling.
 The firmness of the earth prevents its splitting.
 The strength of the spirit prevents its being used up.
 The fullness of the valley prevents its running dry.
 The growth of the ten thousand things prevents their drying out.
 The leadership of kings and lords prevents the downfall of the country.

Therefore the humble is the root of the noble.
 The low is the foundation of the high.
 Princes and lords consider themselves "orphaned", "widowed" and "worthless".
 Do they not depend on being humble?

Too much success is not an advantage.
 Do not tinkle like jade
 Or clatter like stone chimes.

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In harmony with the Tao,
 the sky is clear and spacious,
 the earth is solid and full,
 all creature flourish together,
 content with the way they are,
 endlessly repeating themselves,
 endlessly renewed.

When man interferes with the Tao,
 the sky becomes filthy,
 the earth becomes depleted,
 the equilibrium crumbles,
 creatures become extinct.

The Master views the parts with compassion,
 because he understands the whole.
 His constant practice is humility.
 He doesn't glitter like a jewel
 but lets himself be shaped by the Tao,
 as rugged and common as stone.

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Of old, these attained the One: Heaven
 attaining the One Became clear. Earth
 attaining the One Became stable. Spirits
 attaining the One Became sacred.
 Valleys attaining the One Became bountiful.
 Myriad beings attaining the One Became
 fertile. Lords and kings attaining the One
 Purified the world.

If Heaven were not clear It might split. If
 Earth were not stable It might erupt. If spirits
 were not sacred They might fade.

If valleys were not bountiful They might
 wither. If myriad beings were not fertile, They
 might perish. If rulers and lords were not
 noble, They might stumble.

Therefore, Noble has humble as its root, High
 has low as its foundation.

Rulers and lords call themselves Poor and
 lonely orphans. Isn't this using humility as a
 root?

They use many carriages But have no
 carriage.

They do not desire to glisten like jade But drop
 like a stone.

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Those that attained oneness since ancient
 times:

The sky attained oneness and thus clarity
 The earth attained oneness and thus
 tranquility

The gods attained oneness and thus divinity
 The valley attained oneness and thus
 abundance

The myriad things attained oneness and thus
 life

The rulers attained oneness and became the
 standard for the world

These are all from oneness

The sky, lacking clarity, would break apart
 The earth, lacking tranquility, would erupt

The gods, lacking divinity, would vanish

The valley, lacking abundance, would wither

Myriad things, lacking life, would be extinct

The rulers, lacking standard, would be

toppled

Therefore, the honored uses the lowly as basis

The higher uses the lower as foundation

Thus the rulers call themselves alone, bereft,

and unworthy

Is this not using the lowly as basis? Is it not

so?

Therefore, the ultimate honor is no honor

Do not wish to be shiny like jade

Be dull like rocks

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The masters of old attained unity with the
 Tao.

Heaven attained unity and became pure.
 The earth attained unity and found peace.

The spirits attained unity so they could
 minister.

The valleys attained unity that they might be
 full.

Humanity attained unity that they might
 flourish.

Their leaders attained unity that they might
 set the example.

This is the power of unity.

Without unity, the sky becomes filthy.

Without unity, the earth becomes unstable.

Without unity, the spirits become

unresponsive and disappear.

Without unity, the valleys become dry as a

desert.

Without unity, human kind can't reproduce

and becomes extinct.

Without unity, our leaders become corrupt

and fall.

The great view the small as their source,

and the high takes the low as their

foundation.

Their greatest asset becomes their humility.

They speak of themselves as orphans and

widows,

thus they truly seek humility.

Do not shine like the precious gem,

but be as dull as a common stone.