

11

Thirty spokes share the wheel's hub;
 It is the center hole that makes it useful.
 Shape clay into a vessel;
 It is the space within that makes it useful.
 Cut doors and windows for a room;
 It is the holes which make it useful.
 Therefore benefit comes from what is there;
 Usefulness from what is not there.

11

We join spokes together in a wheel,
 but it is the center hole that makes the wagon move.
 We shape clay into a pot,
 but it is the emptiness inside that holds whatever we want.
 We hammer wood for a house,
 but it is the inner space that makes it livable.
 We work with being,
 but non-being is what we use.

11

Thirty spokes join one hub. The wheel's use comes from emptiness.
 Clay is fired to make a pot. The pot's use comes from emptiness.
 Windows and doors are cut to make a room. The room's use comes from emptiness.
 Therefore, Having leads to profit,
 Not having leads to use.

11

Thirty spokes join in one hub
 In its emptiness, there is the function of a vehicle
 Mix clay to create a container
 In its emptiness, there is the function of a container
 Cut open doors and windows to create a room
 In its emptiness, there is the function of a room
 Therefore, that which exists is used to create benefit
 That which is empty is used to create functionality

11

Thirty spokes are joined together in a wheel,
 but it is the center hole that allows the wheel to function.
 We mold clay into a pot,
 but it is the emptiness inside that makes the vessel useful.
 We fashion wood for a house,
 but it is the emptiness inside that makes it livable.
 We work with the substantial,
 but the emptiness is what we use.

12

The five colors blind the eye.
 The five tones deafen the ear.
 The five flavors dull the taste.
 Racing and hunting madden the mind.
 Precious things lead one astray.
 Therefore the sage is guided by what he feels and not by what he sees.
 He lets go of that and chooses this.

12

Colors blind the eye.
 Sounds deafen the ear.
 Flavors numb the taste.
 Thoughts weaken the mind.
 Desires wither the heart.
 The Master observes the world but trusts his inner vision.
 He allows things to come and go.
 His heart is open as the sky.

12

Five colors darken the eyes. Five tones darken the ears. Five tastes jade the palate.
 Hunting and racing madden the heart. Exotic goods ensnarl human lives.
 Therefore the Sage Takes care of the belly, not the eye, Chooses one, rejects the other.

12

The five colors make one blind in the eyes
 The five sounds make one deaf in the ears
 The five flavors make one tasteless in the mouth
 Racing and hunting make one wild in the heart
 Goods that are difficult to acquire make one cause damage
 Therefore the sage cares for the stomach and not the eyes
 That's why he discards the other and takes this

12

Five colors blind the eye.
 Five notes deafen the ear.
 Five flavors make the palate go stale.
 Too much activity deranges the mind.
 Too much wealth causes crime.
 The Master acts on what she feels and not what she sees.
 She shuns the latter, and prefers to seek the former.