

Theme Doing Nothing

Those who seek learning gain every day
those who seek the Way lose every day
they lose and they lose
until they find nothing to do
nothing to do means nothing not done...

Daodejing

Lao-Tzu's Taoteching. Translated by R. Pine. Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 2009.

Imagine that we were wandering in the palace of No-Place.
Harmony and unity would be our themes, never ending, never failing.
Join with me in actionless action.
In simplicity and quietude.
In disinterest and purity.
In harmony and ease.
My intentions are now aimless.
I go nowhere and have no idea how I got there;
I go and I come and don't know why.
I have been, I have gone.
I have no idea when my journey is over.
I wander and rest in limitless vastness.
Great knowledge comes in and I have no idea where it will all end.

Zhuangzi

The Book Of Chuang Tzu. Translated by Martin Palmer and Elizabeth Breuilly. Penguin, 1996.

Once mortals see their nature, all attachments end. Awareness isn't hidden but you can only find it right now. It's only now. If you really want to find the Way, don't hold on to anything. Once you put an end to karma and nurture your awareness, any attachments that remain will come to an end. Understanding comes naturally. You don't have to make any effort.

Bodhidharma

Bodhidharma. Zen Teaching of Bodhidharma. Translated by R. Pine. New York: Weatherhill, 1987.

For once on the face of the earth,
let's not speak in any language;
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines;
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would look at his hurt hands.
Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victories with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about;
I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.

Perhaps the earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.

If you retrain the light of the true mind back upon yourself, if you don't seek anymore, if you come to know that your very selves, as you are, are no different from the buddhas who are our ancestors, if you immediately have nothing-to-do, then it's called catching on to the dharma....It's best to have nothing-to-do, a pure oneness without adulteration.

Linji

Linji. *The Record of Linji: A New Translation of the Linjilu in the Light of Ten Japanese Zen Commentaries*. Translated by J. Broughton, & E. Y. Watanabe. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

I reached Cold Mountain and all cares stopped
no idle thoughts remained in my head
nothing to do I write poems on rocks
and trust the current like an unmoored boat

Han Shan

Han Shan. *The Collected Songs of Cold Mountain*. Translated by R. Pine, Trans. Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 2000.

One experiences emptiness, brightness and purity. Inwardly, one's mind is delighted. One feels tranquil and blissful. There are no situations wherein one is covered over by the hindrances. The mind of goodness comes forth and manifests. One's faith and reverence increase and grow. One's mirror of wisdom becomes clear and bright. The body and mind become supple and pliant. One experiences a subtle and marvelous emptiness and quiescence. One develops a revulsion for and abhorrence of the world. There is nothing which one feels needs to be done and one remains free of desires. One remains sovereignly independent in one's ability to emerge from and enter into

Zhiyi

Zhiyi. *Essentials for Practicing Calming-and-Insight and Dhyana Meditation*. Translated by B. Dharmamitra. Seattle, WA: Kalavinka Press, 2008.