

# ***PSYCHEDELIC PRAYERS***

after the

## ***TAO TE CHING***

by

**Timothy Leary**

**"...But that crucial non–game terror–reverence awful moment comes...  
There comes a time when the ecstatic cry is called for.  
At that time, you must be ready to pray.  
To go beyond yourself. To contact energy beyond your game.  
At that time you must be ready to pray.  
When you have lost the need to pray....  
Your are a dead man in a world of dead symbols.  
Pray for life.  
Pray for life."**

**–Timothy Leary**

**Kumaon Hills,  
Almora, India, 1965  
Millbrook, New York, 1966**

# I

## PRAYERS FOR PREPARATION

### HOMAGE TO LAO TSE

I – 1 The Guide

I – 2 When The Harmony Is Lost

I – 3 Life Seed Death

I – 4 Let There Be Simple Natural Things

I – 5 All Things Pass

I – 6 The message Of Posture

### I – 1

#### The Guide

In the greatest sessions  
One does not know that  
there is a guide

In the next best sessions  
One praises the guide

It is worse when  
One fears the guide

The worst is that  
One pays him

If the guide lacks trust  
in the people

Then  
The trust of the people  
will be lacking

The wise guide guards his words  
The wise guide sits serenely

When the greatest session is over  
The people will say–

"It all happened naturally"

or

"It was so simple, we did it  
all ourselves."

## I – 2

### **When The Harmony Is Lost**

When the harmony is lost

Then come the clever discussions and  
"Wise men" appear  
When the unity is lost

Then come "friends"

When the session is plunged  
into disorder

Then there are "doctors"

I – 3

## L S D

(life light love, seed sun son, death daughter dna)

Hold in reverence  
This great Symbol of Transformation  
And the whole world comes to you

Comes to you without harm, and  
Dwells in commonwealth  
Dwells in the union of heaven and earth

Offer music.....  
Food.....  
Wine.....  
And the passing guest will stay for a while

But the molecular message  
In its passage through the mouth  
Is without flavor

It cannot be seen  
It cannot be heard  
It cannot be exhausted by use

It remains

I – 4

## Let There Be Simple Natural Things During The Session

Let there be simple, Natural things  
To contact during the sessions –

hand woven cloth  
uncarved wood  
flowers – growing things  
ancient music  
burning fire  
a touch of earth  
a splash of water

fruit, good bread, cheese  
fermenting wine  
candles  
temple incense  
a warm hand  
fish swimming  
anything which is over  
five hundred years old

Of course it is always best to be  
secluded with nature

I – 5

## All Things Pass

All things pass

A sunrise does not last all morning

All things pass

A cloudburst does not last all day

All things pass

Nor a sunset all night

All things pass

What always changes?

Earth...Sky...thunder...

Mountain...water...

wind...fire lake...

These change

And if these do not last

Do man's vision's last?

Do man's illusions?

During the session

Take things as they come

All things pass

I – 6

## The Message Of Posture

During the session

Observe your body  
Mandala of the universe  
Observe your body  
Of ancient design  
Holy temple of consciousness  
Central stage of the oldest drama

Observe its structured wonders

skin  
hair  
tissue  
bone  
vein  
muscle  
net of nerve

Observe its message

Does it merge or does it strain?  
Does it rest serene on sacred ground?  
Or tilt, propped up by wire and sticks?

On tiptoe one cannot stand for long  
Tension retards the flow

Of the session it is said–

Superfluous noise and redundant action

Stand out–

square, proud, cramped

Against the harmony

Observe the mandala of your body

## Part II

# THE EXPERIENCE OF ELEMENTAL ENERGY

## HOMAGE TO THE ATOM

II – 1 That Which Is Called The Tao

II – 2 Ethereal Pool

II – 3 Jewelled Indifference

II – 4 Falling Free

II – 5 Sheathing the Self

II – 6 Manifestation of the Mystery

II – 7 Please Do Not Clutch at the Gossamer Web

## II – 1

### That Which Is Called The Tao Is Not The Tao

The flow of energy.....

Here.....

It.....

Is.....

Nameless.....

Timeless.....

Speed of light.....

Float.....beyond fear.....

Float.....beyond desire.....



Into.....this Mystery of Mysteries  
through this Gate.....of All Wonder

## II – 2

### **Ethereal Pool Without Source**

Empty bowl of radiance...  
Full of universe and star...

Silent.....void  
Shimmering...  
Ancestor of all things....

Here...

All sharpness.....rounded  
All wheels.....glide along.....soft  
tracks of light

ethereal pool without source

Preface to life

## II – 3

### **Jewelled Indifference**

Galactic play

Belted radiance

Lethal spectrum

Restless diamond eye

Solar

So long

So long?

Jewelled Indifference

where's home?

Jewelled Indifference

where am I?

Jewelled Indifference

I want.....to go back

Jewelled Indifference

Help! I don't understand

Jewelled Indifference

Is it all a dream?

Jewelled Indifference

WARNING!

SOLAR SHUTTERS OPENING  
LETHAL LOVE RADIATION BEWARE  
FATAL UNITY WARNING BLISS FUSION

All right. Who's next?

Good bye now  
Glide into fusion  
Relentless diamond eye

"The sound man faces the passing  
of human generations immune as to  
a sacrifice of straw dogs"

There.....we.....go

Good.....

Bye

**II - 4**

## **Falling Free**

The law of Gravity.....Falling Free  
Falling Free.....the root of lightness

Repose.....is the root of movement  
Stillness.....the master of agitation

Gravity is .....Falling Free

## II – 5

### Sheathing The Self

The play of energy endures  
Beyond striving

The play of energy endures  
Beyond body

The play of energy endures  
Beyond life

Out here  
Float timeless

Beyond striving

## II – 6

### The Manifestation Of the Mystery

Gazing, we do not see it  
we call it empty space

Listening, we do not hear it  
we call it silence or noise

Groping, we do not grasp it  
we call it intangible

But here.....  
we.....spin through it

Electric, silent, subtle

II – 7

## **Please Do Not Clutch At The Gossamer Web**

All in heaven  
and  
on earth below  
Is a crystal fabric  
Delicate sacred gossamer web

Grabbing hands shatter it

Watch closely this shimmering

mosaic

Silent.....  
Glide in  
Harmony

## Part III

# THE EXPERIENCE OF BIOLOGICAL (SEED-CELL) ENERGY

## HOMAGE TO DNA

III – 1 The Serpent Coil of DNA

III – 2 Prehistoric Origin of DNA

III – 3 Clear Water

III – 4 Returning to the Source

III – 5 Lao Tse's Mind

III – 6 Transfiguration Exercise

III – 7 Tree Above-Tree Below

III – 8 Fourfold Representation

III – 9 The Seed Light

III –10 This Is It

III –11 Gate of the Soft Mystery

III –12 The Lesson of Seed

## III – 1

### The Serpent Coil Of DNA

We meet it everywhere

But we do not see its front

We follow it everywhere

But we do not see its back

When we embrace this ancient serpent coil  
We are masters of the moment  
And we feel no break in the  
Curling back to primeval beginnings

This may be called  
Unraveling the clue of the life process

### III – 2

## Prehistoric Origins Of DNA

Its rising is not bright

nor its setting dark

Unceasing, continuous  
Branching out in roots innumerable  
Forever sending forth the serpent coil

of living things

Mysterious as the formless existence

to which it returns

Twisting back  
Beyond mind

We say only that it is form from the formless  
Life from spiral void

### III – 3

## Clear Water

The seed of mystery  
Lies in muddy water

How can we fathom this muddiness?

Water becomes still through stillness

How can we become still?

By moving with the stream

### III – 4

## Returning To The Source – Repose

Be empty  
Watch quietly while the ten thousand forms

swim into life and return to the source

Do nothing  
Return to the source

Deep repose is the sign  
That you have reached  
The appointed goal

To return to the source is to  
discover the eternal law of seed



He who returns to this eternal law is enlightened  
Being enlightened he is serene  
Being serene he is open-hearted  
Being open-hearted he is beyond social games  
Being beyond social games he is in tune with seed  
Being in tune with seed he endures

Until the end of his life he is not in peril

### III – 5

## **Lao Tse's Mind Becomes Pre-occupied With A Very Difficult Subject To Describe The Production Of Material Forms By The Tao**

Is it a dream?

Shadowy

Elusive

Invisible

All things, all images move slowly  
Within shimmering nets

Here essence endures  
From here all forms emerge

All forms emerge from this second  
Back to the ancient beginning

## Transfiguration Exercise

Transfiguration

What was inert.....moves  
What was dead.....Lives  
What was drab.....radiates

Galactic time has labored to produce  
this moment—exquisite

See how each part joins the whole  
The ancient saying that the isolated part  
becomes whole was spoken wisely

Seed flows

All forms glow

Remain quiet

Pulsate  
In  
Harmony

### III – 7

## The Tree Above–The Tree Below

What is above is below  
What is without is within  
What is to come is in the past

Tall...deep...tree...green...branching...leaf  
Root...above...below...thrusting...coiling  
Sky...earth...stem...root  
Soil...air  
Seed  
Soil...visible  
Hidden...breathing...sucking  
Bud...ooze...sun...damp  
Light...dark...bright...decay...laugh  
Tear...vein...rain...mud...branch...root

What is above is below  
What is without is within  
What is to come is in the past

These wooden carvings displayed in her endless shelves  
Await–  
Within each uncut branch–  
The carver's knife

### III – 8

## Fourfold Representation Of The Mystery

Before Heaven and Earth  
There was something  
nebulous...  
Tranquil...effortless

Permeating universally  
Never tiring

Revolving Soundless  
Fusion without mate

It may be regarded as the mother  
of all organic forms

Its name is not known nor its language  
But it is called the name TAO

The ancient sages to the best of their ability  
inventing a description called it "great"

The great TAO

"Great" means—in harmony  
In harmony means—tuned in  
Tuned in means....going far  
Going far means....return  
To the harmony

Thus—there are four greatnesses....

The TAO is great

The coil of life is great

The body is great

And man is also designed in this image to be great

There are in existence four great notes  
And man is made to be one thereof

Man places himself in harmony with his body  
His body tunes itself to the slow unfolding of life  
Life flows in harmony with the TAO

Out here you will know that it  
all proceeds at the natural tempo

In tune

### III – 9

## The Seed Light

The seed light shines everywhere, left and right

All forms derive life from it

When the bodies are created it does not take

possession

It clothes and feeds the ten thousand things

And does not disturb their illusions

Magical helix...smallest form and

mother of all forms

The living are born, Flourish and disappear

Without knowing their seed creator

Helix of light

In all nature it is true that the wiser, the oldest

and the greater resides in the smaller

### III – 10

## This Is It

The seed moves so slowly and serenely

Moment to moment

That it appears inactive

The garden at sunrise breathing

The quiet breath of twilight

Moment to moment to moment

When man is in tune with this blissful rhythm

The ten thousand forms flourish

Without effort

Really!

It is all so simple

Each next moment.....

This is it!

### III – 11

## Gate Of The Soft Mystery

Valley of life

Gate of the Soft Mystery

Beginnings in the lowest place

Gate of the Soft Mystery

Gate of the Dark Woman

Gate of the Soft Mystery

Seed of all living

Gate of the Soft Mystery

Constantly enduring

gate of the Soft mystery

Use her gently and

Without the touch of pain

### III – 12

## The Lesson Of Seed

The soft overcomes the hard  
The small overcomes the large  
The gentle survives the strong  
The invisible survives the visible

Fish should be left in the deep water  
Fire and iron should be kept under ground  
seed should be left free to grow.....

in.....

The rhythm of life

## Part IV

# THE EXPERIENCE OF NEURAL ENERGY (EXTROCEPTIVE)

## HOMAGE TO THE EXTERNAL SENSE ORGANS

IV – 1 The retinal Cakra

IV – 2 The Auditory Cakra

IV – 3 The Touch Cakra

IV – 4 The Smell Cakra

IV – 5 The Taste Cakra

### IV – 1

## The Retinal Cakra

Open naked eye

Ayeee!

Light...radiant...pulsating...

"I've been blind all my life to this radiance."

Retinal mandala

Swamp mosaic of rods and cones

Light rays hurtle into retina at 186,000 miles a second

My cross scope

Tell a scope

Retinal scripture

### THE BLIND MAN'S EYE

recoils at relentless invasion of glittering energy

impersonal bewitched shimmering

mocking, mocking, meye illusions of control

"Too bright! Turn it off! Bring back familiar



gray world of shadow form."

### THE SEE-ER EYE

vibrates to the trembling web of light  
` merges with the seen  
merges with the scene  
slides smiling down retinal whirlpool  
slides smiling through central needle point

## IV - 2

### The Auditory Cakra

Uncover lotus membrane  
Sound waves sound waves sound waves  
Tremble tattoo of impulse  
Sympatonic vibrations  
Float along liquid-filled canals  
THE SINGLE NOTE OF BACH PIANO  
BBBBBBBBIIIIIIINNNNNNNNGGGGGGGG

collides  
trembling meteor of delight  
with quivering membrane  
fuse  
spin  
slowly  
round eternal note  
along network ear tone  
down vibration thread  
who ear  
you are  
vibration... string of wire... finger of soloist

## IV – 3

### The Touch Cakra

Extend your  
Free nerve endings  
Trembling  
Fine tendrils  
Wove in skin  
Fell my finger touch  
Soft landing on your creviced surface  
Send sense balloon drifting up  
through fifty miles of  
Spindle–web skin tissue atmosphere  
Electric thrill contact  
Soar free through million mile blue epidermal space  
Of cotton candy  
Fragile web of nerve wire  
Shuddering fleece of breathless pleasure

## IV – 4

### The Smell Cakra

Sensory landscape  
Air–web of smell code  
Tangle of odor  
Ticker–tape belts treaming  
Breath draught elixir of life  
Across the room from you sits a woman  
  
steaming  
earthy smell of feet  
musk of glands  
sexual perfume  
soap shampoo reeling  
heady mixture of food and drink  
exhausts and wastes from internal factories  
glide out on bands of volatile gas  
merge with her

IV – 5

## The Taste Cakra

The thin sheath of plexiglass covering your tongue

Is melting

Spongy meadows of red tissue

Stripped raw open

Quivering furrows of barrel bud bombs

**Part V**

**THE EXPERIENCE OF NEURAL ENERGY  
(INTROCEPTIVE)**

**HOMAGE TO THE VISCERAL SENSE ORGANS**

**V – 1 The Eliminative Cakra**

**V – 2 The Sex Cakra**

**V – 3 The Heart Cakra**

**V – 4 The Air Cakra**

**V – 5 The Crown Cakra**

**V – 6 Brief Review of Visceral Cakras**

**V – 7 Hold Fast to the Void**

**V – 8 Take In–Let Go**

**V – 1**

**The Eliminative Cakra**

Yellow–brown

Can you float through the universe of your body

and not lose your way?

Can you dissolve softly? Decompose?

Can you rest

dormant seed–light

blurred in moist earth?

Can you drift  
single-celled  
in soft tissue swamp?

Can you sink  
into your dark  
fertile marsh?

Can you dissolve softly? Decompose?  
Can you slowly spiral down the great central drain?  
Yellow brown

**V – 2**

## **The Sex Cakra**

Rainbow  
Can you float through the universe of your body  
and not lose your way?

Can you lie quietly  
engulfed  
in the slippery union  
of male and female?  
Warm wet dance of generations?  
Endless ecstasies of couples?

Can you offer your stamen trembling in the meadow  
for the electric penetration of pollen  
While birds sing?

Writhe together on the river bank  
While birds sing?

Wait soft–feathered, quivering, in the thicket

While birds sing?

Can you coil serpentine

While birds sing?

Become two cells merging?  
Slide together in molecule embrace?

Can you, murmuring,

Lose

All

Fusing

Rainbow

## V – 3

### **The Heart Cakra**

Scarlet

Can you float....

through the universe of your body...

And not lose your way....?

Can you flow....

with fire blood...

Through each tissue corridor....?

Throb....

To the pulse of life....?

Can you let your heart.....

pump you.....

down long red tunnels....?

Radiate...swell...penetrate...

to the bumpy rhythm?

Can you stream....  
Into cell chambers....?  
Can you center....  
On this heart fire of love....?  
Can you let your heart....  
Become central pump-house....

For all human feeling?  
Pulse for all love?  
Beat for all sorrow?  
Throb for all pain?  
Thud for all joy?

Can you let it....  
Beat for all mankind?  
Burst...bleed out...into warm compassion  
Flowing...flowing...pulsing...

out...out...out?

Bleed to death  
Life...  
Blood  
Scarlet

**V – 4**

## **The Air Cakra**

Azure blue  
Can you float through the universe of your body and not lose your way?  
Breathing  
Breathing  
Can you drift into free air?  
Breathing  
Breath of life  
Aetherial bliss  
Inspiration  
Can you rise on the trembling vibration

of inhale.....exhale?

Breathing.....breathing  
Breath of life  
Can you ascend the fragile thread of life

into cloud-blue bliss?

Can you spiral up through soft atmosphere  
Breathing.....breathing  
Catch that exact second between in-breath and out-breath  
Just there.....  
Can you float beyond life and death?  
Azure blue  
At that exact second  
Now

## V – 5

### The Crown Cakra

Light  
Can you float...  
Through the universe of your body ...  
And not lose your way....?  
Can you focus...in your spinal column...the energy from

every center in your body?

-----earth seed  
-----sexual fusion  
-----heart's fire  
-----breath rising  
-----retinal glitter  
-----sound vibrating  
-----touch quiver  
-----volatile gas  
-----tongue's explosion

Now....  
Pull these sensory streams into your brain



Turn on the billion-celled diamond network  
Light....light....light....  
Incandescence  
Solar flare  
From every cell in your body  
Energy hurtles  
Light....life....love....luminous  
Into the thousand petalled lotus  
of light

## V – 6

### **Brief Review Of The Visceral Cakras**

Breathing.....  
Drift, drift along your body's soft  
swampland while warm yellow mud sucks lazily

Breathing.....  
Feel each cell in your body intertwine,  
merging in wet rainbow serpent-coil grasping orgasm

Breathing.....  
Feel the thudding motor of time  
pulsing life along the red network

Breathe.....  
Gently, until you are as warm and soft  
as an infant

Breathing.....  
Bring fire blood flowing into

the white rooms of your brain

Breathing.....  
Radiate golden light into the  
four corners of creation

**V – 7**

## **Hold Fast To The Void**

Breathing.....  
Notice how this space out here  
Between heaven and earth  
Is like a bellows

Breathing.....  
Always full, always empty  
Always full, always empty

Breathing.....  
Come in here, go out there  
Come in here, go out there

Breathing.....  
Silence

Breathing.....  
This is no time for talk  
Better to hold fast to the void

Breathing

**V – 8**

## **Take In – Let Go**

To breathe in  
You must first breathe out  
Let go

To hold  
You must first open your hand  
Let go

To be warm  
You must first be naked  
Let go

## **Part VI**

# **RE-ENTRY: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE IMPRINTED WORLD**

### **HOMAGE TO THE SYMBOLIC MIND**

- VI – 1 The Moment of Fullness**
- VI – 2 How to Escape the Trap of Beauty and Goodness**
- VI – 3 For God's Sake-Feel Good**
- VI – 4 Re-Imprinting Using Water As Element**
- VI – 5 The Lesson of Water**
- VI – 6 The Utility of nothing**
- VI – 7 The Innocence of the Sensual**
- VI – 8 What the brain Said to the Mind**
- VI – 9 How to Recognize the TAO Imprint**
- VI –10 Illustration of a TAO Imprint**
- VI –11 Keep In Touch**
- VI –12 Use Your Knowledge of Nature's Law**
- VI –13 The Conscious Application of Strength**
- VI –14 Victory Celebration**
- VI –15 Along the Grain**
- VI –16 He Who Knows the Center Endures**
- VI –17 Walk Carefully When You Are Among....**

## VI – 1

### The Moment Of Fullness

Grab hold tightly  
Let go lightly

The full cup can take no more  
The candle burns down  
The taut bow must be loosed

The razor edge cannot long endure

Not this moment re-lived

So..... now  
Grab hold tightly  
Now.....  
Let go lightly

## VI – 2

### How To Escape The Trap Of Beauty And goodness

As you return

Remember

Choose beauty..... so you define ugly  
Select good, so you create evil  
As you choose your joy, so you design your sorrow

The coin you are now imprinting has two sides

Better to return in the flow of Tao

For indeed

The opposites exist for you alone  
Beyond your heads and tails  
Dances the unity

All sounds harmonize  
All games end in a tie

Your God stands on the pitcher's mound and

nods to his catcher and winds up and  
throws a shoulder-high fast ball

POP!

Right into your Devil's glove.

## VI – 3

### **For God's Sake – Feel Good**

As you return

Remember to choose consciously

Power is the heavy stone wrenched

from your garden of tenderness

Virtue is the heavy stone crushing your innocence

What can be learned

From nature is  
Harmony

Therefore–

Shun the social

Cuddle the elemental

Avoid angles, lie with the round

Shun plastic, conspire with the seed

Do no good  
But  
For God's sake  
Feel good

And

Nature's order will prevail

**VI – 4**

## **Re-Imprinting Using Water As Element**

Remember

The flow of water

Live—at the natural level

Fluid

Live—close to the earth

Fluid

Live—giving life

Fluid

Live—falling free

Fluid

Live—in the stream

Fluid

## VI – 5

### The Lesson Of Water

What one values in the game–

is the play  
Fluid

What one values in the form–

is the moment of forming  
Fluid

What one values in the house–

is the moment of dwelling  
Fluid

What one values in the heart–

is the beat  
Pulsing

What one values in the action–

is the timing  
Fluid

Indeed

Because you flow like water  
You can neither win nor lose



## VI – 6

### The Utility Of Nothing

the nothing at the center of the

thirty spoke wheel....

.

the nothing of the clay vase.....

The nothing within the four walls.....

The goal of the game is to go beyond the game

You lose your mind

To use your head

You lose your mind

To use your head

## VI – 7

### The Innocence Of The Sensual

Name the five colors–

shadow the eye

Name the eight notes–

muffle the ear

Name the five tastes—

coat the tongue

Naming stops the flow

Win the game, lose the play

Let a child's innocence

feed your hungers

## VI – 8

### What The Brain Said To The Mind

'One to me is fame and shame

One to me is loss and gain

One to me is pleasure and pain"

murmured the brain

(looking down with compassionate

curiosity.....

As

A beautiful woman idly  
inspects a tiny blemish  
on her long smooth flank.....

Looking down with compassionate  
curiosity

At the small imprinted chess board  
of the mind's external game)

'One to me is fame and shame

One to me is loss and gain

One to me is pleasure and pain"

said the brain

## VI – 9

### How To Recognize The Tao Imprint

He who returns in the flow of TAO  
Brings back a mysterious penetration  
So subtle  
That it is misunderstood

Here is his appearance

Hesitant like one who wades in  
a stream at winter  
Wary as a man in ambush  
Considerate as a welcome guest  
Fluid like a mountain stream  
Natural as uncarved wood  
Floating high like a gull  
Unfathomable like muddy water

How can we fathom this muddiness?

Water becomes clear through stillness

How can we become still?  
By moving with the stream

## VI – 10

### Illustration Of A Tao Imprint

He stands apart

Serene  
Curiously observing

He stands quietly

Looking forlorn  
Like an infant who has not yet  
learned to know what to smile at

He is a little sad for what he sees

While others enjoy their possessions

he lazily drifts, a homeless  
do-nothing, owning nothing

Or he moves slowly close to the land

While others are crisp and definite

he seems to be indecisive

He does not seem to be making his way

in the world

He is different  
A wise infant nursing at the breast  
of all life

Inside

## VI – 11

### **Keep In Touch**

The TAO flows everywhere

Keep in touch  
And be at home  
Everywhere

He who loses the contact is alone  
Everywhere

Keeping in touch with the TAO  
Is called  
Harmony

## VI – 12

### **Use Your Knowledge Of Nature's Law**

Nature's way is to leave no residue  
All is absorbed

Therefore we treasure the "least of men"

All belongs  
All is salvaged  
Nothing is rejected  
This is called stealing the light.....  
Nature's subtle secret

## VI – 13

### **The Conscious Application Of Strength**

Force recoils

But

The time comes when there is

nothing to do

Except act consciously

With courage

## VI – 14

### **Victory Celebration**

Celebrate your victory

with funeral rites  
for your slain illusions

Wear some black at your wedding

## VI – 15

### Along The Grain

The Tao is nameless  
Like uncarved wood

As soon as it is carved  
Then there are names

Carve carefully  
And  
Along the grain

## VI – 16

### He Who Knows The Center Endures

He who knows the outside is clever

He ex-cells life less

He who knows the center endures

He lives in-light end

He who masters, gains robot strength

He over-powers

He who comes to the center has

flowering strength  
He is in-formed

Faith of consciousness is freedom  
Hope of consciousness is strength  
Love of consciousness evokes the same in return  
Faith of seed frees  
Hope of seed flowers  
Love of seed grows

## VI - 17

### **Walk Carefully When You Are Among**

"holy men" and  
"righteous" deeds  
Distract from the internal

"Learned men"  
Distract from  
Natural wisdom

Professional know-how  
Addicts people to the contrived  
And the external

Be respectful and compassionate  
But walk carefully when you are among-

learned men  
holy men  
doctors  
government officials  
reporters  
publishers  
professors  
religious leaders  
psychologists  
rich men



social scientists  
women with beautiful faces  
artists and writers  
men who  
charge fees  
city men  
movie makers  
men who want to help you  
men who want you to help them  
Christians and Jews

For such as these  
However well meaning  
Place you on their chessboard  
Addict you to their externals  
Distract you from the  
TAO within

The lesson of the TAO is more likely to be found among—

gardeners  
hermits  
mountain men  
smiling eccentrics  
men who build their own homes  
children  
parents who learn from their children  
loafers  
amateur musicians  
serene Psychotics  
animals  
men who look at sunsets  
men who walk in the woods  
beautiful women  
cooks  
men who sit by the fire  
wanderers  
men who make bread  
couples who have been in love for years  
unemployed men  
smiling men with bad reputations