

(英文)[認理歸真]4何以必要求道？

#### 4) The Purpose of Acquiring Tao

Tao is the root of all sources and the original character of man. Although Tao dwells inside man, it is clouded by his own doing of liquor drinking, succumbing to temptation of beauty, competition and rat-race for names and status, emotional weakness and blinded love, to name but a few.

The age of our eternal spirit have been some sixty thousand years old and our conscience is originally pure like those of new-born baby. However, as time passes, our mind have been bogged down with bad deeds and influences and our conscience obscured by wrong desires and insatiable wants. Man loses his character through the desire for fame, and knowledge leads to contention. In the struggle for fame, men crust each other, while their knowledge is but an instrument for scheming and contention. Mankind is living in a 'Sea of sins' but we are treating it as the 'Garden of happiness'. To their parochialism and self-contretness in outlook, Tao is practically non-existent.

People who abnormally develop humanity, exact character and suppress nature in order to gain a reputation, make the world noisy with their discussions and cause it to follow impractical doctrines. People who commit excess in arguments, like piling up bricks and tying knots, analysing and enquiring into the distinctions of hard and soft, while identities and differences, wear themselves out over vain, useless terms. In exchange for the material essentials of civilised life, man has lost certain essentials which are necessary for his peace of mind.

Those who rely upon the arc, the line, compasses and square to make correct forms injure the natural constitutions of things. Those who seek to satisfy the mind by hampering it with ceremonies and music and affecting humanity and justice have lost the original nature of man. If man keeps his own virtue, the world will avoid deviation from the true path.

The Way is impeded in us. It is not far from man; those who finds it seeks it. But man having lured by earthly attractions were stubborn to recover their original nature and return to the original state. Those who lost their selves in material things and lose their original nature in the material world may be compared to people who stand on their heads.

Acquiring the art of Tao cultivation is also means the art of preventing the eight earthly sufferings of mankind. Life may be very comfortable now. Most rich people of e.g. American have a comfortable material life, but one should not forget the fact that there are many sufferings which human beings cannot avoid. Furthermore, many people in the world are actually living in a condition not much better than that of hell. Examples of such sufferings are the war-torn countries and famine-stricken areas.

Sufferings serve as alarms to stimulate one to search for liberations; so let us examine the different kinds of sufferings which changed very little over the long years, that a human being experiences:-

1. Sufferings because of birth.
2. Sufferings because of sickness.
3. Sufferings because of age.
4. Sufferings because of separation from loved ones or things one like.
5. Sufferings because of an undesirable confrontation with a person or things.
6. Sufferings because of death.
7. Sufferings because of the denial of one's desires.
8. Sufferings because of the burning intensification of human behaviour, such as hatred, jealousy etc.

It is regrettable that with all the progress in human cultivation, mankind is still unable to lessen or abolish the basic sufferings. In some occasions, sufferings are even intensified by the quickening of life's pace and the increase of material temptation.

The commitment of evil deeds of man gives rise to the confronting Great disaster. Man has been living in a world of sufferings since early periods. They were searching their way in the dark. The road which they originally come from is no more concerned as to fame and wealth. The Way is the spiritual high road to the common existence and evolution of mankind. All men who walk this road, conforming to their instinct for existence (accordance with nature), will make it an integral part of their daily life (the Way is not far from man). But this road is frequently in need of repair in order to keep it open and unhindered. That is why cultivation of the Way is required.

During the olden days, a young ascetic looking for truth will have to abandon his family. Hsi Wei obtained Tao and so set the universe in order. Fu His, (who discovered the principles of mutations of Yin and Yong) obtained it, and was able to steal the secrets of eternal principles. The Great Dipper obtained it, and has never erred from its course. The sun and the moon obtained it, and have never ceased to revolve. K'an Pie, with a man's head but a beast's body obtained it, and rules over the streams. Chien Wu (a mountain god) obtained it, and dwells in Mountain Tai. The Yellow Emperor who ruled in 2698-2597 B.C.) obtained it, and soared upon the clouds to heaven. The Western (Fairy) Queen mother obtained it, and settled at Shao Kuang. Fu Yueh obtained it, and as Minister of Wu Ting extended his rule to the whole empire.

Nowadays, all living things spring from the dust return. Men regard as mortal that which is eternal, and consider as finite that which is infinite. Those who possess Tao are princes in this life, and rulers in the hereafter. Tao will lead you through the portals of Eternality to

wander in the great wilds of Infinity. Those who do not possess Tao behold the light of day in this life and become clods of earth in the hereafter.