

## 10) The Steps After Tao Acceptance

During the early periods, a person who wished to obtain Tao must isolate himself from home. But now, at the third stage, Tao is widely spread. Our Heavenly Mother has sent down many immortals to aid in the spreading of Tao. Employed to conduct oneself, they brought harmony and blessing, and employed to deal with others, love and impartiality. Employed to cultivate the Tao, they gave peace and harmony. For example, when they spoke of the full development of human nature, they mean the complete realisation of the moral principles of the Three Bonds (between ruler and minister, father and son, husband and wife) and the Five Constant Virtues (that is, righteousness on the part of the father, love on the part of the mother, brotherliness on the part of the older brother, respect on the part of the younger brother and filial piety on the part of the son, covering the relationships between the ruler and ministers and between father and son). When they spoke of nourishing they mean that one should nourish these moral principles without doing anyone harm. This contral truth runs through the most subtle principles and the most obvious facts, with nothing left uncovered.

It is not necessary to abandon one's family and went desperately in search of Tao, as in the 'green' and 'red stages'. Every member of the family can obtain and practice Tao cultivation together. Now, man can cultivate Tao and at the same time engaged in his own affairs. Neither of each is a hindrance to the other.

It is the mercy of our Heavenly Mother that we can at any time practice Tao cultivation. Accept Tao whole-heartedly with the right discipline for morality, concentration and wisdom and one is on the road towards self-purification and enlightenment. Poor financial background, low status, low education and heavy manual occupation are no hindrance in gaining recognition from Tao acceptance and cultivation. Everybody enjoys equal privilege and opportunity. Our merciful Heavenly Mother accepted our human's livelihood in the twin roles of 'half-work and half-cultivation' performed by man. This means one can now devote his time and energy in the Tao cultivation and at the same time engaged in an occupation of his choice. That is the reality of our modern world for man believes in sustaining and earning his own means of livelihood. An able-bodied person cannot just like in olden days begging in the streets for food because police might detain them for the reason of being a social nuisance and incapable of caring after oneself.

Confucius: Fishes live their full life in water, men live their full life in Tao. Those that live their full life in water thrive in ponds. Those that live their full life in Tao achieve realisation of their nature in action. Hence the saying "Fish loses itself is happy in water; man loses himself is happy in Tao". Besides disciplining and improving oneself on aspects of right words, thoughts and deeds one must not forget those who are still in sufferings. Spreading Tao as far as possible is the responsibility of every Tao cultivators. Both inner and outer qualities must be on the guard. Spreading to many and as wide as possible is the fundamental aim in this last 'white stage' because heavy movements of saintly spirits traffic would distract and repel evil spirits and demons. Tao must be spread at even the slightest opportunity to others

in order to create an atmosphere and a wider exposure for more keen and congenial listeners, thus paving the way for more new-comers to Tao acceptance. Clinging steadfastly to the 'golden-thread' of Tao by frequenting the religious venue and hearing preaching means one is well-informed which is essential in the progress of Tao cultivation. In this way Tao shall flourish with the subsequent creation of peace and harmony and a sense of brotherhood amongst man.