

FINE ARTS ACTIVITY: HANDOUT

Taoist Sayings: In the Words of Laozi and Zhuangzi

“The supreme good is like water, which nourishes all things without trying to. It is content to take the low places that people scorn. Thus it is like the *dao*.”

Laozi

“Make your needs few, and lessen your wishes. Then you may get along even without rations.”

Zhuangzi

“Water is the softest and meekest thing in the world. Yet it is best able to overcome that which is strong and solid.”

Laozi

“Therefore, it is said that the ultimate man has no self, the spiritual person has no accomplishment, and the wise person no name.”

Zhuangzi

“To learn, one accumulates day by day. To study *dao*, one reduces day by day.”

Laozi

“If I think well of life, then for the same reason I must think well of my death.”

Zhuangzi

“The *dao* is like an empty bowl. That may be drawn from without ever needing to be filled. It has no bottom; (it is) the very ancestor from which all things in the world come.”

Laozi

“A path (*dao*) becomes a path by people walking it. A thing being called something becomes it. Why is it so? It is so because it is so. Why is it not something other than what it is? It is not because it is not.”

Zhuangzi

Pretend that you are a student of Daoism. Select one of the above quotations to help explain your understanding of this philosophy.

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What do you think this means? Use your own words. Can you give an example from “real life” to explain?

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