

•Lecture Today

- In-class quiz
- Admin stuff
- The *Tao-te ching* continued

Admin stuff

- I need to see Sukhkiran Kaur, Raman Sandhu and Lea Walters at the end of lecture.

Admin stuff

- Re Third Assignments: If you don't agree with my evaluation of your assignment, by all means come and talk with me (about why you disagree). (This doesn't mean I'll alter your grade, but I have been known to do so from time to time [even this year].)
- Re your Term Paper: I recommend talking your ideas over with me. Don't leave this paper to the last minute!
- Re your own Term Paper topic: If I get a Term Paper on a topic I did not approve, *I will not pass it.*
- For all of you doing your own Term Paper topic - email me (afenton2@uwo.ca) your topic (this way you don't get burned).

Admin stuff

- **Term Paper Topic #3:** Note there are two different foci here for a term paper (one dealing with the good life, the other dealing with good government). *Pick one, DON'T do both.*
- Any questions about the Term Paper topics?
- If you haven't been regularly attending classes, do make sure that you have all of the handouts I have given out (they are helpful study aids for the exam).
- Not all handouts can be posted on-line. So you will have to come and see me for some of the handouts.

Admin stuff

- You now have your list of potential exam questions. The only way this exam question list will change is if we do not get to certain topics (i.e. one or two of the latter questions may be dropped if we get too far behind).
- Your actual exam questions will be chosen (verbatim) from this list.
- Are there any questions about the possible exam questions (I'll keep checking before other lectures)?

Admin stuff

- What I can tell you about the exam (at this point):
- (i) You will have *some* choice on the exam (you'll be asked eight questions out of which you *must* do six).
- (ii) It will be a two hour exam.
- (iii) No aids.
- Any questions?

Tao-te ching

- Do make sure to use my handout to group the *assigned* chapters ... it should help with getting a grasp of the material.
- We can't cover all of the chapters in detail (we'd be here until sometime in May), but we should be able to cover the topics (some of the topics will be discussed together).

Tao-te ching: On the Tao

- Some reminders:
- The *Tao* is the origin of both being and nonbeing (Chapters 1, 4, 14, 16, 25, 34, 42).
- The *Tao* is not God, It is not divine (Chapters 4, 42).
- No-thing would exist without the *Tao* (Chapters 16, 25, 34).
- The changes, patterns and regularities in Nature arise from the *Tao* (Chapters 25, 42, 56).
- All things (including us), upon their dissolution, return to the *Tao* (Chapters 16, 34, 77).

Tao-te ching: On the Tao

- Some importance *differences* between the *Tao* and (how we commonly conceive) the divine:
- 1. The *Tao* does not lay claim to what arises from It (Chapters 2, 10, 34, 73, 77).
- 2. The *Tao* does not expect, demand, or require worship, praise, or acknowledgement (Chapters 32, 34, 73).
- 3. The *Tao* is never seen to be at work (Chapters 4, 14, 25, 34, 37, 53, 73, 81).
- 4. When experienced (by the spiritually immature), the *Tao* does not appear to be great (i.e. the *Tao* does not immediately inspire awe) (Chapters 14, 32, 34, 45, 53, 66).

Tao-te ching: On the Tao

- Some important *similarities* between the *Tao* and (how we commonly conceive) the divine:
- 1. The *Tao* **creates** All, or every-thing (Chapters 1, 16, 25, 34).
- 2. The *Tao* **nourishes and cares for** All, or every-thing (Chapters 5, 16, 25, 34, 77).
- 3. To act in conformity to the *Tao* is to live as well as you can (or is the life that should be favored above all others) (Chapters 14, 16, 34, 37, 45, 46, 53, 55, 60).

Tao-te ching: On knowledge

- Knowledge is not necessarily good, or against Confucian education (Chapters **2**, **19**, 20, 32, 38, 45, **48**, 55, **56**, **57**, 81).
- One should seek knowledge of the *Tao* (Chapters **16**, 28, 32, **55**).
- Knowledge of the *Tao* is not discursive (Chapters **1**, 10, 48, **55**, 56).
- Knowledge of the *Tao* comes from looking inward (Chapters 10, **12**, **47**). Arguably, this is the feature of Taoist epistemology that points to the early importance of meditation within Taoism.

Tao-te ching: On proper action and proper character

- Some of the virtues commended by Lao Tzu:
- 1. Compassion (Chapters 10, **16**, 27, 81).
- 2. Contentment (Chapter **33**, 44).
- 3. Flexibility, or open mindedness (Chapter **76**).
- 4. Generosity (Chapters 10, 44, 64, 77, **81**).
- 5. Humility (Chapters 13, 15, **20**, 22, 28, 49, 53, 66, 67).
- 6. Impartiality (Chapter **5**).
- 7. Mercy (Chapter **49**, **67**, 77).
- 8. Moderation (Chapter **67**).
- 9. Self-love (Chapter **13**).
- 10. Serenity (Chapter 15, **16**, **31**, 37, 42, 56).