

Credit worthiness hinges not only on performance indicators, but also on political stability and "preferred" economic policies. A handful of rich, industrialized nations control the voting rights at the International Monetary Fund.

Spiritual freedom... can be known now, at this very moment, at the very place where you happen to stand. It is in accepting fully your state of soul as it is now, not in trying to force yourself into some other state of soul, which, out of pride, you imagine to be a superior and more advanced state. It is not a question of whether your present state is good or bad, neurotic or normal, elementary or advanced; it is a question of what it is. The point is not to accept it in order that you might pass on to a "higher" state, but to accept because acceptance in itself is that "higher" state, if such it may be called.

Hoyen used to produce his own hand and ask his disciples why it is called a hand. When one knows the reason, there is satori, and one has Zen.

What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet... Romeo, doff thy name, and for thy name, which is not part of thee, take all myself
I take thee at thy word. Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized; henceforth I will never be Romeo

Reform. There is neither possibility of compromise nor hope that the problem will miraculously vanish. It cannot be rationalized or ignored, and you cannot maneuver around it. It is a tangible, real, and self-generating interference in your life, and must be severely reformed before it causes any permanent damage to you... Personal relationships without defined guidelines, reasonable expectations, reciprocal considerations, and clear plans for the future, are now in danger of dissolving in the chaos being generated by the current situation. Misunderstandings and confusions will become more common unless firm, clearheaded action is taken to dispense with ~~what~~^{ever} you perceive to be an obstacle to union.

Necessity is the mother of invention.

"That's an 8, okay?"

What sadness lengthens Romeo's hours?
Not having that which, having, makes them short.

The Tao is close at hand, but people seek it afar.

... There was also the Bodhisattva Mahamati in each of these innumerable assemblies asking the Buddha to declare the content of his inner spiritual experience; and when the Buddha finished his discourse on the subject with hundreds of thousands of exquisite voices, the whole scene suddenly vanished, and the Buddha with all his Bodhisattvas and his followers were no more. Then King Ravana found himself all alone in his old palace. He now reflected: "Who was he that asked the question? Who was he that listened? What were those objects that appeared before me? Was it a dream? Or a magical phenomena?" He again reflected: "Things are all like this, they are all creations of one's own mind. When mind discriminates there is manifoldness of things; but when it does not it looks into the true state of things." When he thus reflected he heard voices in the air and in his palace, saying, "Well you have reflected, O King! You should conduct yourself according to this view."

At the summit of being all see and know the principle of the One.

Grace.

In 1981 the Indian government negotiated the largest loan ever granted by the International Monetary Fund to any country, \$5.8 billion dollars. The loan was badly needed, but it raised the country's external debt by almost 50%, and came with some strings. The broad thrust of the IMF's terms was that India's economy should be more integrated with the world economic system.

"I like you affinity!"

"What would be an affinity hug?"

"It would be a whole day care hug... everybody would be hugging and everyone would be kissing... EVERYBODY...
... even the boys."

Or it may be that we can accord ourselves the right to self-acceptance only when we have paid for it by going through some disciplinary mill or spiritual obstacle course.

The modern agricultural system ever more resembles a giant supermarket, where large agribusiness corporations control the supply of seeds and fertilizer, the marketing of produce, and the shaping of consumer tastes. Thus they increasingly influence what is grown where, and what is eaten by whom... In the US, a handful of enterprises produce around 65% of petroleum based products used in agriculture, and 75% of the chemicals... since 1970 a few giant petrochemical corporations have quietly taken over more than 400 small seed businesses... Similarly, a few dozen corporations dominate the processing, manufacture, and marketing.... Feeding people is the biggest business in the US, with food sales topping \$300 billion a year.. (meanwhile)... the prodigal application of synthetic fertilizers (avg. 125 kg./ha) and pesticides are responsible for over half of all US water pollution... irrigation, which accounts for over 80% of US water use, is steadily depleting the country's groundwater stocks... transport costs incurred in distribution of food now amounts to 5 billion a year... in energy terms processing now costs more than \$10 billion a year, or 2/3 as much again as growing the food on the farm.... farmers debt makes them obligated to reap ever-larger harvests each year, in apparent indifference to the environmental costs... vast areas are planted with identical crop strains, eroding genetic diversity... if every nation expended as much oil per head in agriculture as the US current oil reserves would be emptied in a dozen years....

A man may hear this shower sing in the wind....

Deterioration. Deterioration will continue to spread until it falls out of fashion... external ploys will not put an end to the natural cycle of Deterioration. Time will.

One day Obaku was weeding with a hoe, and seeing Rinzai without one, asked, "How is it that you do not carry any hoe?" Answered Rinzai, "Somebody has carried it away, sir." Thereupon, Obaku told him to come forward as he wanted to discuss the matter with him. Rinzai stepped forward. Said Obaku, lifting his hoe, "Only this, but all the world's unable to hold it up." Rinzai took the hoe away from the master and lifted it up, saying, "How is it that it is now in my own hands?" Obaku remarked, "Here is a man doing a great piece of work today!" He then returned to his own room.

✓ The great Tao flows everywhere, both to the left and to the right.
The ten thousand things depend upon it; it holds nothing back.
It fulfills its purpose silently and makes no claim.

"That's how strong I am... I can even break the whole day care."

Not all the soil which covers the Earth's ice-free land surface is suited for growing crops. In fact, of the total area of some 13 billion hectares, a mere 11% presents no serious limitations to agriculture. The rest is either too dry, too wet, too poor in nutrients, too shallow, or too cold.

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Preferred belief is the symbols or language expressing a person's world view that are chosen because they are appropriate to the nature of the individual.

Returning. This promising turn for the better is as natural as the change from a still, cold winter to the early anticipation of spring. And, like the seasons, the cycles in life cannot be hastened... Returning is the implied end of an old cycle. Study the phase you are now exiting. It had a beginning and you are experiencing its end. The reasons for certain things that may have been unacceptable or confusing to you are now revealed.... The contemplation of the return of these cycles can lead to profound inner knowledge.

Looking back, my life seems like one long obstacle course, with me as the chief obstacle.

Thus if man is to realize again his fundamental unity and harmony with life, he must proceed by the roundabout way of trying to get that which he already has until he convinces himself of his own folly.

Why dost thou laugh?

"Pretend you couldn't, but you really could...."

What are your original features which you have even prior to your birth?

As for micro-organisms, a mere 30 grams of soil may contain 1 million bacteria of just one type, as well as 100,000 yeast cells and 50,000 bits of fungus mycelium. Without these microorganisms, the soil could not convert nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulphur to available forms to plants.... According to Harvard's professor Edward O. Wilson, there is far more biological complexity in a handful of soil in Virginia than on the entire surface of Jupiter. Yet we invest more money in exploring the planets than in finding out how our basic life support systems work here on Earth... The supreme irony is that, while political leaders around the world beat ploughshares into swords, proclaiming that they will not surrender one square meter of territory to a foreign invader, they allow huge areas of once-fertile lands to wash or blow away each year... Each year about 11 million hectares-- of about 1.3 billion ha of cultivatable land-- are lost through erosion, desertification, toxification, and cropland conversion to non-agricultural uses... There is no known way we can replace our soil.

Tyrants themselves wept when it was reported.

"That is well said," replied Candide, "but we must cultivate our garden."

Innocence. In order to harmonize your actions with the cosmos, it will be necessary to adopt an attitude of Innocence... Innocence with spontaneity will bring creativity to many areas of your life... Spontaneity can bring great pleasure as well as reveal true feelings and motive.

Living organisms grow from within outwards, and do not fashion themselves by standing outside themselves like architects or mechanics; they move according to inner spontaneity, rather than objective principle. Inwardness is therefore mysterious and inscrutable, but not chaotic and capricious. It does not work according to law, but the "laws of nature" are somewhat clumsily abstracted from its behavior ex post facto.

"You got a soft face...."

"I got it a hundred years ago."

Potential Energy. You possess a storehouse of potential psychological energy. There is no reason that it should not be used in positive exchange.

Every part of this soil is sacred in the estimation of my people. Every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove, has been hallowed by some sad or happy event in days long vanished. Even the rocks, which seem to be dumb and dead as they swelter in the sun along the silent shore, thrill with memories of stirring events connected with the lives of my people.

Human activity and nature's activity are two names for one and the same thing, for the doings of people are the doings of nature, and the doings of nature are the doings of people.

Do unto others as if you are doing unto you.

What? I, that killed her husband and his father, to take her in her heart's extremest hate, with curses in her mouth, tears in her eyes, the bleeding witness of my hatred by; having God, her conscience, and these bars against me, and I no friends to back my suit at all but the plain devil and dissembling looks? And yet to win her! All the world to nothing! Hah!

Each year about 11 million hectares of our (worldwide) arable lands are lost through erosion, desertification, toxification, and cropland conversion to non-agricultural uses. If this trend is allowed to continue unchecked, by the year 2000 we shall lose 275 million hectares, or 18% of our arable lands... Human activity causes natural erosion rates to increase many times over. We cultivate steep slopes without adequate terracing, practice inept irrigation, allow livestock to overgraze grasslands, overwork the soil until its robust structure turns to dust, eliminate tree cover (forests, shelterbelts, hedgerows...) One third of US croplands, well over 50 million ha, is now undergoing a market decline in long-term productivity because of soil erosion.... (Some 66,000 chemicals are being used in the US; the Environmental Protection Agency has classified 60,000 of them as potentially, if not definitely, hazardous to human health. They have been dumped or buried for years on the plausible but, as it turned out, tragically wrong theory that they would lose their toxicity curing the decades it would take them to drift through layers of soil and rock into deep water supplies. There is no way to remedy in a few years at least a century of misguided, if innocent, practices.

"We're not gonna play house... we're teachers."

"What do we do?"

O but they say the tongues of dying men enforce attention like deep harmony... where words are scarce,
they are seldom spent in vain....

Soil-- this curious assembly of inorganic constituents derives originally from rock which, being weathered by rainwater, atmospheric gases, ice, and roots, has slowly broken down into a form in which it can support multitudes of life-forms... The process of soil formation is slow. At best, even when sediments build up quickly, formation of 30 centimetres may take 50 years. More usually, when new soil is formed from parent rocks, one centimetre may need from 100 to 1,000 years. So to form soil to the depth of this page could take as long as 10,000 years... As for micro-organisms, a mere 30 grams of soil may contain 1 million bacteria of just one type, as well as 100,000 yeast cells and 50,000 bits of fungus mycelium. Without these micro-organisms, the soil could not convert nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulphur to available forms to plants.

Dead, did I say? There is no death, only a change of worlds.

It is curious to speculate upon the consequences of civilized people's refusal to be eaten by other forms of life, to return his body for the fertilization of the soil from which he took it. This is a significant symptom of his alienation from nature, and may be a by no means negligible deprivation of the earth's resources.

Nourishing. The idea of the hexagram Nourishing originates from the interdependent structure of the food cycle on earth. All of life is sustained within a self-perpetuating system... The correct Nourishing of those close to you is vital to your sense of well-being, for such supportive activity will ultimately come back to you in kind... Cultivate only constructive opinions and attitudes in order to properly nourish your character.

If a man understands the Tao in the morning, it is well with him even when he dies in the evening.

"I'm gonna do one more jump, then it will be over."

✓ Compress this unimaginable timescale into a single 24-hour day, and the Big Bang is over in less than a ten-billionth of a second. Stable atoms form in about four seconds; but not for several hours, until early dawn, do stars and galaxies form. Our own solar system must wait for early evening, around 6 p.m. Life on Earth begins around 8 p.m., the first vertebrates crawl on to land at about 10:30 at night. Dinosaurs roam from 11:35 p.m. until four minutes to midnight. Our ancestors first walk upright with ten seconds to go. The Industrial Revolution, and all our modern age, occupy less than the last thousandth of a second. Yet in this fraction of time, the face of this planet has changed almost as much as in all the aeons before.

✓ Home is where the heart is.

Critical Mass. There are numerous decisions pending, the air is full of ideas with all their ensuing multifarious possibilities, and the ponderous affairs of people around you are pushing into the foreground. All of it is important, serious, and meaningful, and all of it is coming to a head right now.

What we call birth is but beginning to be something else than what we were before.

This part of the journey is again as natural as the development of chrysalis into butterfly, and any attempt to force this growth egotistically is like trying to open the chrysalis with tweezers.

Everything comes gradually and at its appointed hour.

"Remember, we were talking about caterpillars... and look?"

Naturally, it is possible to exercise the muscles in pursuing something that may, or may not, give pleasure; but pleasure cannot be given unless the senses are in a state of accepting rather than taking, and for this reason they must not be, as it were, paralyzed and rigidified by the anxiety to get something out of the object.

Garbage incinerators release approximately 700 toxic pollutants, including dioxin-- one of the deadliest chemicals known to science. These contaminants, even in extremely small amounts, cause environmental problems, including cancer, respiratory problems, liver damage, acid and dioxin rain, and other effects... No study has yet conclusively demonstrated that they (garbage incinerators) can be operated without posing an unacceptable risk to public health or safety.

Danger. The situation is one of real Danger, caused by and manifested in the affairs of man... Do not avoid confrontations in any difficult or threatening situations; you must now meet and overcome them through correct behavior. Maintain a continued resolve... If possible, convince others of the soundness of your ideas by demonstrating the good effects of your actions. If you are not supported, then move on. Do not dally in Danger.

Inasmuch as Buddhism is a living religion and not a historical mummy stuffed with dead and functionless materials, it must be able to absorb and assimilate all that is helpful to its growth. This is the most natural thing for any organism endowed with life.

The voyage of the best ship is a zig-zag line of a hundred tacks.

For the soundness of ideas must be tested finally by their practical application. When they fail in this-- that is, when they cannot be carried out in everyday life producing lasting harmony and satisfaction and giving real benefit to all concerned-- to oneself as well as to others-- no ideas can be said to be sound and practical.

"We have to help each other. That's friends."

By the year 2000, some 2.7 billion people, half the population of the developing world, will find their minimum fuel needs insecure or unmet.... Scarcity occurs most frequently in ecologically fragile drylands and highlands, where loss of tree cover leads to flooding, soil erosion, and the silting up of river beds and dams. The search for alternative fuels leads to the burning of dung that would otherwise have been returned to the soil-- this reduces farm yields, forcing farmers to clear more forest to maintain food supplies. This, in turn, reduces the availability of fuelwood, and results in another twist down the vicious spiral.

There is sure another flood toward, and these couples are coming to the ark.

...Orenda, the force and the spirit of the tribe as a whole. Illness is caused by the disharmony of the individual or of the entire tribe with nature.

The whole situation in and around you at this instant is a harmony with which you have to find your own union if you are to be in accord with Tao.

Synergy. The best way to achieve your aims within the limitations of your situation is to depend on and synergize your energies with the forces of the cosmos. Learn to recognize the times, and act accordingly... When pressures mount, don't become explosive. Instead, work quietly and diligently to alleviate them. At times of high energy, don't throw yourself away in undisciplined euphoria... When energies subside, use the time to rest and gather your strength instead of exhausting yourself with useless struggling.

No one puts his finger in another man's mouth and then beats him over the head.

"This is a stapler. If you put your finger here and staple it, you'll get really hurt."

Attraction. This is a serious and profound Attraction that is shared by both you and the object of your interest, whether it is a person or a situation in which you are integrally involved in the outcome.

There's no place like home.

Wood plays a part in more activities of a modern economy than any other commodity... an average American citizen uses more than twice as much wood as all metals together... tropical forests comprise almost half of all growing wood on the face of the planet.

A monk asked Chosa Keishin, "How do we, transforming mountains and rivers and the earth, reduce them into the Self?" Replied the master, "How do we, transforming the Self, produce mountains and rivers and the earth?"

It is the realization that that union has existed from all time, even though one did not know it, and that nothing in all the world nor anything that oneself can do is able to destroy it.

Nothing is so new as what has been long forgotten.

"Can I be the first one to get my back rubbed?"

Continuing. Look within for character traits that are self-perpetuating and self-renewing. New goals can be reached through relying on that which has endurance and consistency in your nature... This does not mean a blind attachment to arbitrary social institutions, but rather an adherence to foundations that support the growth of sound and smooth-working systems in life... "When we examine the continuance of things, the natural tendencies of heaven and earth can be seen. Herein lies the secret of eternity."

Nature uses as little of anything as possible.

What is the meaning of those things happening together at this moment? The word Tao is the answer to this question.

The Tao is the only reasonable and harmonious path for the individual through the cosmos given the individual's nature and the nature of the cosmos at a given moment in time.

In 1950, 30% of the land was covered by forest, half of which was tropical forest. By 1975 the area covered by tropical forest had declined to 12%. By 2000 we shall be lucky if tropical forests cover 7% of the land... Part of the problem is that more people everywhere require more wood... we seek specialist hardwoods like meranti, mahogany, teak, and ebony at unrealistically low prices, and we demand cheap beef from formerly forested pasturelands.

Cry woe, destruction, ruin, and decay; the worst is death, and death will have his day.

"That poor little baby girl got runned over by the ocean... poor little girl, she's too small...."
(referring to a picture she had just drawn)

Logically stated, all the opposites and contradictions are united and harmonized into a consistent organic whole. This is a mystery and a miracle, but according to the Zen masters such is being performed every day.

Reium was asked "How were things before the appearance of the Buddha in the world?" He raised the hossu. "How were things after the appearance of the Buddha?" He again raised the hossu.... This raising of the hossu was quite a favorite method with many masters to demonstrate the truth of Zen.

The 2nd law of thermodynamics efficiency, as defined by the American Physical Society, is "the efficiency is equal to the ratio of the least available work that could have done the job to the actual available work used to do the job."

In the developed world, a large amount of wood is used for paper; almost 2000 million tonnes of pulp a year, compared with the developing nations consumption of around 25 million....

Retreat. To retreat at the proper moment is the best course of action... You are not abandoning the situation, but, instead, making a wise and timely withdrawal... This is done with determined detachment: cut off the lines of communication, become self-sufficient, withdraw intellectually and emotionally... Difficulties and hostilities are on the rise in worldly affairs. Do not attempt to compete with these forces.

Loyalty well held to fools make our faith mere folly....

"I make the rules, cuz I'm the rulemaker."

"You're not the rulemaker of everything."

"Yeah, you're not the rulemaker of him or me."

*See sandals quote
Walt's
Walt's*

The world supports twice as many domestic animals as humans... About 40% of world cereal production goes to feed livestock... Production of this protein demands a grazing area of more than 3 billion ha (crops 1.5 billion ha)... In the US, the average citizen now consumes 110 kgs of meat/year, UK 75 kgs, USSR 51, Brazil 32, China 21, Nigeria 6, India 1.1

Great Power. The responsibility of correctness in times of Great Power is unparalleled in importance, for actions that are incorrect will pull you and others into chaos. This hexagram is unusually auspicious in worldly matters. Although blessed with Great Power, you would be wise to pause and be certain that your proposed objectives are honorable... Even innocent deviations from the traditional could end in emotional disaster.

Everyone is involved when it comes to determining the markets that supply the jobs.

... supple knees feed arrogance

A special transmission outside the scriptures
No dependence on words or letters
Direct pointing at the soul of man
Seeing into one's nature and the attainment of Buddhahood

He must have got his directness from his own teacher, Obaku, by whom he was struck three times for asking what the fundamental principle of Buddhism was.... The direct method is thus not always the violent assertion of life force, but a gentle movement of the body, the responding to a call, the listening to a murmuring stream, or to a singing bird, or any of our most ordinary everyday assertions of life....

"I used to have a fly in my house, but I wapped it out."

For as long as rich-world citizens, by their high meat diets, continue to support the inequitable meat/grain connection, land will be over-worked, and people will go hungry... and as long as certain developing nations emphasize industry, urbanization, and export cash crops at the expense of food sufficiency and the small farmer, the same applies....(Coffee is big business for the Third World. In 1980, it was worth almost \$12 billion in export earnings, second only to petroleum. But this sum is only a fraction of the coffee trade's total value. The rest goes to shippers, brokers, processors, wholesalers, and retailers-- virtually all located in the developed world.... Most coffee drunk is soluble coffee, and it is in the processing of beans into powder that the greatest profit margin lies. Yet coffee-growing nations of the Third World export only 4% of their coffee in processed form. This is because of the concentrated power of a few giant corporations, backed by protectionist governments, who are able to dictate terms of trade to producer nations....)

Given these dependencies-- the economic system on the wealth yielded by the production system, and the production system on the resources provided by the ecosystem-- logically the economic system ought to conform to the requirements of the production system, and the production system to the requirements of the ecosystem.

Is it possible he should know what he is, and be that he is?

All day in grey rain hollyhocks follow the sun's invisible road.

It is one's own spiritual nature in enlightenment that responds to the external world, comes in contact with objects, raises the eyebrows, winks the eyelids, and moves the hands and legs. This Nature is the Mind, and the Mind is the Buddha, and the Buddha is the Way, and the Way is Zen.

Progress. This is a time of rapid Progress, which begins in a particularly radiant and enlightened individual and benefits her entire society.

"They can go here, and go la-la-la, and then go back down...."

... the opportunity of opening an eye to the truth of Zen lies everywhere. One can pick it up in the hearing of an inarticulate sound, or listening to an unintelligible remark, or in the observation of a flower blooming, or in the encountering of any trivial everyday incident such as stumbling, rolling up a screen, using a fan....

The unheralded everyday actions that make possible the realization of the One are inherent in every thing.

All our activities are just as much activities of nature and the universe as are the circling of planets, the running of water, the roaring of thunder, and the blowing of the wind....

Even as tens of thousands of babies die each day from diseases exacerbated by malnutrition, over 1/3 of the world's grain is fed to livestock to supply the meat rich diet of the affluent. Millions in the poorest countries are caught in a tragic cycle of poverty and land degradation... Citizens of richer countries must insure that their corporations and consumption patterns do not intensify land use problems in the Third World... Each year about 11 million hectares of our (worldwide) arable lands are lost through erosion, desertification, toxification, and dropland conversion to non-agricultural uses. If this trend is allowed to continue unchecked, by the year 2000 we shall lose 275 million hectares, or 18% of our arable lands....

O God, seest thou this, and bearest so long?

Censorship. You will find that those around you are not sympathetic to your vision... This is not a good time to openly examine the points of contention in your personal relationships. Your feelings and ideas are not popular issues with those close to you. At the moment there is nothing to discuss....

"Let's measure our thumbs."

Plainly and simply it has been the nations, tribes and peoples bred to mythologies of war that have survived to communicate their life-supporting mythic lore to descendants.

Those who live amid concrete, plastic, and computers can easily forget how fundamentally our well-being is linked to the land.

For the scientist tends to regard nature, human and otherwise, as a world to be conquered and reordered, to be made subject to the technology of the rational intellect, which has somehow disowned and shaken off its roots in the very organism it now presumes to improve.

Such as are your habitual thoughts, so will be the character of your mind.

Family. In established families, the members adhere to their natural and comfortable roles. (Leaders) should be careful in their words and base their continuing credibility upon actions that demonstrate the soundness of their principles... Try to see all organizations, whether familial, social, or political, as Family groups, and then determine your most comfortable position within them. Be certain, however, that you are not involved in carrying out a role for which you are unsuited, or a role that has been cast upon you. This will rob your life of meaning.

The infinitely small is as large as large can be
When external conditions are forgotten
The infinitely large is as small as small can be
When objective limits are put out of sight
One in all, all in one.

"I have the whole world in my mouth."

But our actions are almost invariably directed by a philosophy of ends and values, and to the extent that this is unconscious it is liable to be bad philosophy with disastrous active consequences.

Capitalism is incompatible with love.

Water gives life to the ten thousand things and does not strive.

As Western Europeans and North Americans eat more meat, they create a booming demand for animal-feed supplements, including fishmeal... About a third of the global fish catch now goes into meal and oil, mostly to feed the hungry North... Meanwhile the Third World watches its already meagre share of the catch dwindle still further... According to FAO and the World Bank, almost 500 million people (more than 1 in 10) regularly consume less than the "minimum critical diet" necessary to stay healthy and maintain body weight... Even a domestic cat in Europe or North America receives more meat each day than many a person in the developing world... Each year 40 million people die from hunger and hunger-related diseases (Equivalent to more than 300 Jumbo Jet crashes a day with no survivors)... In 1982 the UK spent 235 million on slimming aids... Spending on tranquilizers in the North matches total public health expenditures in the world's 67 poorest countries....

Here's a night pities neither wise men nor fools....

Contradiction. You must now gain an understanding of these divergent forces and better accord yourself with the times... This sense of oneness or wholeness in a world of Contradiction can bring you great depth of character and peace of mind.

"She lives in Durham and I live in Durham, but it's not the same Durham."

Feeding people is the biggest business in the US, with food sales topping \$300 billion a year... (meanwhile)... the prodigal application of synthetic fertilizers (avg. 125 kg./ha) and pesticides are responsible for over half of all US water pollution... irrigation, which accounts for over 80% of US water use, is steadily depleting the country's groundwater stocks... transport cost incurred in distribution of food now amounts to \$5 billion a year... in energy terms processing now costs more than \$10 billion a year, or 2/3 as much again as growing the food on the farm... farmers debt makes them obligated to reap ever-larger harvests each year, in apparent indifference to the environmental costs... vast areas are planted with identical crop strains, eroding genetic diversity... if every nation expended as much oil per head in agriculture as the US current oil reserves would be emptied in a dozen years....

Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.

Obstacles. When flowing water, the image of the Tao, meets with an obstacle in its path, a blockage in its journey, it pauses. it increases in volume and strength, filling up in front of the obstacle and eventually spilling past it... To increase your strength you must rely upon others. Bring together those who can help you and seek advice from appropriate sources... Many of your external Obstacles are, in fact, internally generated. Whether you create them in the process of acting out internal conflicts, or instinctively choose paths fraught with certain difficulties, they must nevertheless be overcome.

Ever desireless, one can see the mystery.

Ever desiring, one can see the manifestations.

The two spring from the same source, but differ in name.

What cannot be described or measured (is mystery), and it is in this sense... that woman is always a mystery to man, and man is always a mystery to woman.

The mystery of life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.

No one knows the story of tomorrow's dawn.

"Do you know what the snack is going to be?"

"I don't know... you never know. It might be a surprise...."

Biologically productive areas of ocean occur primarily in coastal zones, where nutrients are washed down from the land, and where surface winds and ocean currents work together in dredging up nutrient-rich sediments from the sea floor.

Respect of the unknown is the attitude of those who, instead of raping nature, woo her until she gives herself.

... is really more than ready to give herself to a man but, imprisoned within a set of aggressive attitudes which have become habitual, has not the faintest idea how to do so.

Two watermelons cannot be held under the same arm.

Liberation. Just as a thunderstorm releases tensions in the atmosphere, it is time to clear the air of mistakes and resentments... When it is possible to overlook past errors and forgive transgressions, do so, for the sooner the tensions are relieved, the better for all concerned.

Lieh-tzu attained the Tao by "letting the events of the heart go just as they liked."

"What a nice hug!"

"The next one's gonna be one inch bigger than the one I just had... (one hug later)... that's how strong I am... I can even break the whole day care."