

## THE WAY BACK TO HEAVEN

### *Chapter 1 : Upon Receiving Tao*

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to you for this is your most auspicious day. Today you have received Tao. Tao is the most precious thing; it surpasses everything. All of the Saints and Buddhas received Tao in the past and, transcending the limitations of birth and death, have achieved everlasting life. That which you have received today is the same Tao.

The congratulations that were conveyed to you today were not for earthly affairs. During the ceremony, the Holy Registration Form was burned and its essence floated up to Heaven. In this way your name, which was written on the form, was registered in Heaven and erased from hell. We offered our congratulations to you for you have now received Tao and your name is registered in "The Book Of Life" in Heaven.

During the ceremony, the Master "unlocked your Mystical Gate" and directly pointed out to you the Way to get back to Heaven. Since this gate has been unlocked by the Master, the Way is clear for us to return to our origin, or our true home in Heaven. However, although the Gate has been unlocked for us, we must rely on our own efforts to open the Gate and pass through it. In other words, it is now up to each of us to cultivate ourselves and to walk along the righteous path, so that we may pass through that Gate and someday enter into Heaven.

As long as you cultivate yourself, you will be capable of expanding your inner wisdom and finding your True Self, which is the original nature of your soul bestowed upon you by the Creator of all. By merging your True Self into your everyday dealings with people and situations, everything you do will be more "balanced and perfect" and in tune with the harmony of the infinite universe.

### *Chapter 2 : What Is Tao ?*

The Chinese character for Tao (道) Literally means "the way" or "the path". More precisely, it refers to the way, or path, back to Heaven - The Kingdom of God. The word "Tao" however has a much broader meaning than any finite definition. Lao Tzu, when speaking of Tao, said:

The Tao that can be spoken of is not the Eternal Tao. The name that can be named is not the Eternal Name. The Nameless is the beginning of Heaven and earth. The named is the mother of the 10,000 things.

Tao is the Creator and master of the universe; It is the source of everything. Tao is another name for God - the Supreme Power. Before the earth and sky existed, before the creation of the universe, Tao existed. After the universe is annihilated and nothing remains, Tao will continue to exist and will create and control a new universe. Tao is mysterious, limitless, invisible, and formless. It cannot be seen, heard, smelled, tasted, or touched and is beyond the power of human comprehension. Tao activates everything, yet we cannot see its action. It works without effort, yet nothing is left undone. Mankind usually calls it "Nature". Sometimes it is called "Truth". Nothing can exist without Tao because everything depends on it. Tao is God, and our souls issue from God's essence. We are all God's children.

Tao is universal: when dwelled in Heaven, it is called the natural or heavenly; when dwelled in earth, it is called geography; when dwelled in material, it is called the principle of that material; and when dwelled in the form of a human being, it is called the conscience of that person.

What you have received today is Tao. Tao is everybody's True Self. The Master has unlocked your Mystical Gate, and now you can realize that the physical body is not your True Self. The body is controlled by the Tao within you.

As human beings, we are a combination of spirit and body. Spirit, like intangible light or energy, cannot be seen, heard, smelled, tasted, or touched. Commonly it is called "Soul". The source of our Spirit, or Soul, is from God, but our physical body comes from our parents. You already had Tao within you, but you did not realize it. Yet you felt compelled to search for something of spiritual nature and have now been fortunate enough to find a Master who is able to transmit Tao to you to help you "re-discover" your True Self.

When a soul resides within a body, it can come to mistake itself for that body and to believe that the body is really itself. The soul will then come to be controlled and directed by that body which will cause it to be lost entirely. Perhaps previously you believed that your True Self was the physical body and behaved accordingly. Have you ever been selfish? Maybe in the past you committed misdeeds, acts of violence, or overindulged in physical pleasures. This condition repeatedly leads into reincarnation and endless sufferings. The Creator's purpose in His gift of Tao is to remind us never to lose our True Selves nor to forget God's Kingdom - our real home town. This world and this life are the place and time for us to retrieve, improve, and cultivate ourselves in preparation for returning to Heaven someday.

Now you understand that your True Self is not your physical body but only uses the body as a vehicle or tool. You are not limited to this physical body; you are boundless. You are full of mercy and love because you share God's Spirit. Most people today have forgotten all these spiritual characteristics and do not know who they really are. Today you are "re-discovering" and "regaining" your conscience - your True Self.

### *Chapter 3: Why Does Tao Appear Now?*

Tao has existed even before the creation of the universe, but since that time it has not been recognized by many people. In modern times, most people blindly worship science and technology instead of spiritual harmony; they believe that the power of mankind can surpass nature. They forget how great nature is and believe that science and the human brain have all the answers. Spirit or soul, to them, is nothing but a religious term and does not exist at all. But when we look at all the problems on this earth, such as war, killing, crime, violence, hunger, greed, destruction, etc., we see that they are the outer manifestations of our inner selves (or minds). If our inner selves were always in a state of harmony, the world would be full of peace and free of such evils. Without finding and nurturing our True Selves, we will continue to be in a crisis of suffering. However, God, like our mother, is merciful and compassionate. He wants to deliver us from sufferings and thus gave each of us Tao and sent His Saints to light the Way back to Heaven and rescue all peoples.

In ancient times, however, it was not so easy to encounter a Master (of the Way) or to receive Tao. Formerly, one who intended to receive Tao had to abandon all worldly possessions and enjoyments. If he was a king he had to abandon his kingdom, or if he was a high official he had to resign his high position. Anyone who wanted to seek a Master who could transmit Tao had to leave his family and go to the remote mountains. After much suffering he would gradually perfect his conduct, purify his mind and heart, and perform

many good deeds. For his sincerity, God would send a Saint to transmit Tao to him. Under such conditions a person able to succeed was hard to find! During that period Tao was only transmitted from one Patriarch to another.

Today we need not go to the remote mountains in order to cultivate ourselves. We may find the means to do so in our own environment. Therefore we must take full advantage of our fortunate circumstances because we are in close proximity to Tao. Why is Tao so accessible to us at this time? It is because mankind is facing great calamities which threaten the destruction of the human race.

What is the cause of these calamities? Nowadays, people are corrupt. They do not recognize their True Selves which are indestructible and immortal. Many people have abandoned their consciences. They harm others in order to benefit themselves. Those evils which human beings are committing will cause great disasters the likes of which have never been witnessed before. This will be the final calamity, or Armageddon.

However, God, of whose essence we are created, is merciful and compassionate and does not desire that the good people be destroyed along with the evil ones. So God has provided that Tao be disseminated among mankind and has sent the Great Teachers, Buddha Ji Gong and Bodhisattva Yueh Hwei, to rescue all beings so that they may return to Heaven together. The Great Teachers do the will of God and are responsible for transmitting Tao to all those who have divine affinity and compassionate hearts. Their duty is to manage the work called "The Last Salvation". This salvation is formless and soundless and the transmission is performed without preaching. It directly points out the original nature (conscience or soul) of mankind in order that people may realize their True Nature and thereby become enlightened.

When the last calamity arrives, nothing can save mankind except for the mercy and grace of God which comes to us in the form of the True Way - this is Tao, which is sent from Heaven. That is why Tao is widely disseminated today; to save good people. Ancient people first cultivated themselves and then received Tao, but today we receive Tao first and then cultivate ourselves. Therefore, after we have received Tao we have to seriously cultivate ourselves. We must cling to the Truth which comes only from God, follow the path of righteousness, and free our consciences from the dark grasp of sin. Then we shall be safe from danger, escape from calamities, avoid reincarnation and become Saints and Buddhas.

Although it is easier for modern people to receive Tao than it was for past generations, the ability to receive Tao depends on each person's condition and background. Today you received Tao because you have divine affinity and you and your ancestors have performed many virtuous deeds. Possibly you cultivated yourself in a religion in your previous lives. These conditions allow you to have an affinity with Tao. Without this affinity it would not be possible to receive Tao.

## Part II

# THE THREE DIVINE TREASURES

At the Ceremony of Receiving Tao, you were given the Three Treasures. The Three Treasures are Heavenly Secrets, and thus may not be revealed to anyone. Only in the proper way, as in the Ceremony of Receiving Tao, can such Heavenly Secrets be transmitted. If you have relatives and friends whom you wish to receive Tao and the Three Treasures, please bring them to the Sanctuary. Hold these Three Treasures tightly in your heart, and don't forget them. They are:

- A. *The Mystical Gate* : The Entrance to Heaven
- B. *The Password* : The Password to Heaven
- C. *The Contract* : The Holy Seal of Heaven

### A. The First Treasure: *The Mystical Gate*

The point where the Master placed his finger (as a key) upon your face during the Ceremony of Receiving Tao is called The Mystical Gate. It is the abode of your True Self, your Original Nature, Conscience, Soul, and also the "narrow gate" or the "path to Heaven". All of these are one and the same, and they all indicate the true center of man or his true essence and original indestructible nature which is identical with Tao.

Originally, we all came to this world by way of the Mystical Gate. Gradually, however, the gate is locked as our True Selves become covered by the defilement of our misdeeds and lack of virtue. At the point of death, when the soul must leave the body, the soul will not be able to exit through the main gate, or The Mystical Gate, where it originally entered. The soul is then forced to leave the body by an alternate or side route - either through the eyes, ears, mouth, nose, navel, or vertex (top of head). These six outlets all lead the soul into different realms of reincarnation; they do not lead to Heaven.

Through God's mercy you have received Tao, and your Mystical Gate has been unlocked. When the time comes for your soul to leave your body, it will be able to exit through the Mystical Gate and directly return to Heaven and will no longer be subject to reincarnation. Even so, you must cultivate yourself thoroughly. If you do not thoroughly cultivate yourself, even though you have received Tao and your Mystical Gate has been unlocked, you will not be able to return to Heaven. This is because your True Self is still entangled in sin and is unable to freely exit via the Mystical Gate.

Our devotion to God is based on Truth, not superstition. If you take the time to study the Truth (Tao) and follow the examples of all the Saints and Buddhas, you may one day achieve Sainthood and become a Buddha. Practice according to Truth and cultivate yourself everyday; things will not happen overnight. Occasionally, obstacles will pop up on the path seemingly barring our progress in self-cultivation. When this happens, we can concentrate our attention and meditate on the Mystical Gate to help us overcome these obstacles. An obstacle will not seem so great when we have the proper perspective and remember what is truly important in our lives.

### B. The Second Treasure : *The Password*

During the Ceremony of Receiving Tao, the Master transmitted the Password to you

in the form of five words. Actually these five words are a representative of the Real or True Sutra which has no words, no form, and no sound. It is like a prayer or an inner feeling that is beyond words or physical forms; it can connect us directly with God.

The Password itself has no definable meaning; rather it is a special name for the Happy Buddha (also known as Maitreya or Mi Le Fwo). It can be used to remind oneself that there is a "Buddha" or Saint within each of us; that is our inner True Self. Since man is essentially divine (having been made in God's image and possessing an eternal soul which God gave to each of us), man needs only to understand the nature of reality and align himself with it. The more pure and refined his nature, the more conscious he becomes of his divine nature and his relationship with Tao. When he realizes that he is one with Tao, he has become fully enlightened.

If we experience some distress or mental uncleanness, we can use the Password to help purify the mind and reconnect ourselves with our True Self. This should help to settle our minds. At any time, we may silently use these five words to enhance our spiritual cultivation.

It is very important, therefore, to know how to use the Password correctly. It should be projected mentally and silently with great concentration; the five words should never be uttered aloud, nor should they be written down. The only exception to speaking The Password out loud is when one is in the Sanctuary with the alter lamps lit. Even so, the Password should never be revealed to or discussed with a person who has not received Tao, even if it is one's spouse or best friend.

### C. The Third Treasure : *The Contract*

The Third Treasure which was given to you is called "the Contract". It is like a mutual agreement between you and God; it unites us with God. It also specifies our relationship with God. Since all contracts must have a signature or a seal on them, we use The Third Treasure to represent a seal by bringing our hands together as we were taught to form the Holy Seal of Heaven. In this way we reaffirm that we are children of God and that we are willing to act accordingly. To be good children means that we should cease to bring shame to our Heavenly Father. Instead, we should keep our hearts as pure as an innocent child's, do the will of Heaven and act in accordance with Tao.

In ancient China, the duodecimal (twelve) system was used for measuring time and the joints of the fingers as tools for counting. The first and last Chinese characters of this system (like alpha and omega), when combined, form the character for "child". When we hold the Heavenly Seal, one thumb is in the position of alpha and the other thumb is in the position of omega, and together they form the word "child". Since the right hand is more often used for evil purposes such as punching or stealing, the left hand is used to cover the right hand and the right hand is thus shielded by the left. This is the physical symbol of our True Self, and of us as children of God. When you want to pray or pay respect to God, you should use the Contract as you have been taught.

In the Sanctuary, when we kneel before the Alter of God, our posture imitates that of a child. While holding the Contract in our hearts (willingness to be a child of God) and the seal with our hands (physical symbol of a child), we also kneel down before God with bowed heads, slightly curved backs and folded knees. This posture reflects that of a baby in its mother's womb. Our Original Nature or Soul is just as pure as a baby in the womb. At all times we should strive to keep our hearts and minds equally as pure.

### Using The Three Treasures Together :

We have already seen how The Three Treasures can be used independently of each other. For instance, if bad thoughts creep into one's mind, by focusing mentally on the

Mystical Gate (the First Treasure), these bad thoughts can be more easily abolished. Also, one may meditate upon the Password (the Second Treasure) in order to calm the mind. The Third Treasure, the Contract, may be used when praying to God and to remind us that we are His children.

There are special circumstances, however, when the Three Treasures can be used all together at one time. Only when a life and death emergency occurs, or a dangerous situation arises where human strength and effort are not enough to overcome or escape it, one may then use the Three Treasures together. A great emergency will be reduced to a manageable situation. Do not use the Three Treasures to deal with small events or situations which may be altered by human effort. One should not belittle the Three Treasures by using them for small problems such as a cold or toothache which a trip to the doctor could remedy. Neither should one be foolish and charge into a dangerous situation, such as a fire or flood, and use the Three Treasures as a shield when common sense tells one to escape danger. This is not the correct way to act.

The method of using the Three Treasures together is as follows. Close your eyes 80% of the way (20% open), close your mouth and place the front part of your tongue on the roof of your mouth. At the same time, focus on the Mystical Gate, hold both hands together with the left over the right to form the Contract and place it on your chest, then mentally and voicelessly repeat the Password three times in your mind.

What shall we do if an emergency happens and there is no time to use the Three Treasures? For example, if a car swerves toward you suddenly, what do you do? You must cultivate yourself on a daily basis. When we follow Truth, peace will naturally follow us and help us. We will not need to request help; it will come to us at the proper time. We keep kindness in our hearts by following Tao. We speak kind words to people, perform good deeds and help others to receive Tao. When we are in trouble, God will send Angels to help us.

#### **Conclusion :**

We have had the good fortune, through our divine affinity and compassionate hearts, to have received Tao, and we must now cultivate ourselves. One day we will return to Heaven - The Land of Purity. There are no cigarettes or drugs in Heaven. No one is ill tempered or has bad habits in Heaven. Now is the time for us to change our bad habits and evil ways, otherwise we will not fit comfortably in Heaven. The Way of Truth is open to us; we must move away from darkness. In doing so we will not only find our True Selves but will influence those around us and bring brightness to others as well.