

## Seeings of the Ages



**Lao Tzu**  
(6th century BC)

- A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves
- A scholar who cherishes the love of comfort is not fit to be deemed a scholar
- All difficult things have their origin in that which is easy, and great things in that which is small
- An ant on the move does more than a dozing ox
- At the center of your being you have the answer; you know who you are and you know what you want
- Be Content with what you have; rejoice in the way things are. When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you
- Because of a great love, one is courageous
- By letting it go it all gets done. The world is won by those who let it go. But when you try and try. The world is beyond the winning
- Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step
- Fill your bowl to the brim and it will spill. Keep sharpening your knife and it will blunt
- Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime
- Govern a great nation as you would cook a small fish. Do not overdo it
- Great acts are made up of small deeds
- He who conquers others is strong; He who conquers himself is mighty

- He who controls others may be powerful, but he who has mastered himself is mightier still
- He who does not trust enough, Will not be trusted
- He who knows himself is enlightened; he who knows himself is enlightened
- He who knows that enough is enough will always have enough
- He who knows, does not speak. He who speaks, does not know
- Health is the greatest possession. Contentment is the greatest treasure. Confidence is the greatest friend. Non-being is the greatest joy
- I have just three things to teach: simplicity, patience, compassion. These three are your greatest treasures
- If you realize that all things change, there is nothing you will try to hold on to
- If you would take, you must first give, this is the beginning of intelligence
- In dwelling, live close to the ground. In thinking, keep to the simple. In conflict, be fair and generous. In governing, don't try to control. In work, do what you enjoy. In family life, be completely present
- In the world there is nothing more submissive and weak than water. Yet for attacking that which is hard and strong nothing can surpass it.
- Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love
- Life and death are one thread, the same line viewed from different sides
- Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don't resist them - that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things flow naturally forward in whatever way they like
- Man's enemies are not demons, but human beings like himself
- Manifest plainness, embrace simplicity, reduce selfishness, have few desires
- Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished
- Nothing is softer or more flexible than water, yet nothing can resist it
- Of all that is good, sublimity is supreme. Succeeding is the coming together of all that is beautiful. Furtherance is the agreement of all that is just. Perseverance is the foundation of all actions
- One who is too insistent on his own views, finds few to agree with him

- People in their dealings of affairs often fail when they are about to succeed. If one remains as careful at the end as he was at the beginning, there will be no failure
- Respond intelligently even to unintelligent treatment
- Silence is a source of great strength
- The higher the sun arises, the less shadow doth he cast; even so the greater is the goodness, the less doth it covet praise; yet cannot avoid its rewards in honors
- The key to growth is the introduction of higher dimensions of consciousness into our awareness
- The more laws and order are made prominent, the more thieves and robbers there will be
- The power of intuitive understanding will protect you from harm until the end of your days
- The sage does not hoard. Having bestowed all he has on others, he has yet more; having given all he has to others, he is richer still
- The sage does not hoard. The more he helps others, the more he benefits himself. The more he gives to others, the more he gets himself. The Way of Heaven does one good but never does one harm. The Way of the sage is to act but not to compete
- The softest things in the world overcome the hardest things in the world
- The supreme excellence is not to win a hundred victories in a hundred battles. The supreme excellence is to subdue the armies of your enemies without even having to fight them
- The wicked leader is he who the people despise. The good leader is he who the people revere. The great leader is he who the people say, 'We did it ourselves.'
- The words of truth are always paradoxical
- Those who have knowledge don't predict. Those who predict, don't have knowledge
- To know yet to think that one does not know is best; Not to know yet to think that one knows will lead to difficulty
- To lead people walk behind them
- To see things in the seed, that is genius
- To the mind that is still, the whole universe surrenders

- Treat those who are good with goodness, and also treat those who are not good with goodness. Thus goodness is attained. Be honest to those who are honest, and be also honest to those who are not honest. Thus honesty is attained
- Truthful words are not beautiful; beautiful words are not truthful. Good words are not persuasive; persuasive words are not good
- Violence, even well intentioned, always rebounds upon oneself
- When a nation is filled with strife, then do patriots flourish
- When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be
- When you are content to be simply yourself and don't compare or compete, everybody will respect you
- Without stirring abroad, one can know the whole world; without looking out of the window One can see the way of heaven. The further one goes The less one knows

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