

14) Rules And Regulations In Tao Cultivation

In a country, the government has his own laws and policies. Likewise in a family, there is also an ethical code of conduct to follow. Unexceptionally, Tao has its own set of rules and regulations too. If one abides and follows it accordingly, one is able to achieve perfection in the long run.

We should always follow the rules and regulations set by our Heavenly Mother. Those who are first informed should instruct those who come later, and those who first apprehend the Way should instruct those who are slower to grasp it. This is one of man's responsibilities. For example, water flows downward from high places till it finds its level; electricity is transmitted from high to low voltage till a balance is struck; when heat and cold are mixed, the former helps warm the latter till the same temperature is reached. It is the way of Heaven to be altruistic and collaborate with others in the performance of good. When those who first apprehend the Way instruct those who are slower in learning it, they practice the Way of Heaven and accelerate the progress of mankind.

We must aim at the highest goal: be far-sighted; strict mannerism; setting a good example for others to follow; be merciful; good personality; just and patient; respectable to elders; and be humble all the time. Do not speak evil words; do not hurt the feelings of others. We must endure all hardships and sacrifices. Avoid worldly entanglements, adopt vegetarian diets, advocate loving and helping others, practice self-denial, exhort good conduct, inhibit killing, curb avarice and counsel a healthy attitude. We must distinguish between the demons and be acknowledgeable to Tao. Be patient during the hard times of Tao cultivation. Only in this way can goodness be continued, nature fulfilled, virtue achieved and the Way cultivated.

The basic principles of Tao cultivation is also shared and beared by the principles of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism. All the above religions have the same objective of teaching the people to do good and to purify their eternal spirits. The ethical codes of conduct formed by Confucius, Lao Tze and Shakyamuni must act as the guiding principles for Tao cultivators and it is presented as follows:-

a) Confucius

The five cardinal principles:

- 1) benevolence.
- 2) righteousness.
- 3) propriety.
- 4) wisdom.

5) sincerity.

The three bondage principles:

- 1) People must be loyal to their ruler; ruler must be just to his people.
- 2) Son must be filial to his parents; parents must be responsible to his son.
- 3) Wife must be devoted to her husband; husband must be faithful to his wife.

b) Lao Tzu

The five constituents preservation principles:

- 1) The element of metal.
- 2) The element of wood.
- 3) The element of water.
- 4) The element of fire.
- 5) The element of earth.

The three purity principles:

- 1) Vital fluid.
- 2) Creative energy.
- 3) Spiritual essence.

c) Shakyamoni

The five commandments:

- 1) Do not kill animals.
- 2) Do not steal.
- 3) Do not commit adultery.
- 4) Do not tell lies.
- 5) Do not drink liquor.

The three precepts:

- 1) We should respect the sages.
- 2) We must learn from the sages.
- 3) We ought to carry out the teachings of the sages.

The moral code of conduct of the above three sages which although are different, it bears the same ultimate objective of spiritual purification. First of all, we should abstain from meat and liquor in order to have wisdom and preserve the element of water. Moreover, we should not indulge in sex in order to preserve the principle of propriety and the element of fire. Furthermore, we should not kill animals so as to preserve the principle of benevolence and the element of wood. In addition, we should not cheat others in order to preserve the principle of sincerity and the element of earth. Finally, we must not steal in order to preserve the principle of righteousness and the element of metal.

Tao is merciful to all, even to the notorious but repentable man. We must pay careful attention to the rules and regulations of Tao for it is the real path helping us to reach the state of complete enlightenment. When we have reached that state of perfection, not only do we enjoy eternal life but also the rewards granted by our Heavenly Mother. By observing the rules of propriety and practicing righteousness, we hope to be worthy of our ancestors.~~