

(英文)[認理歸真]5得道有四大難

## 5) The Four Requisites of Tao Cultivation

### a) The opportunity of being born with a human body

Man is indeed very fortunate to have a human body and a brain capacity with which, he can do all sorts of heavenly work and to spread Tao cultivation as widely as possible to 'brothers of the four seas'. The body that one possesses is unreal, for it will disintegrate one day after death. No more will be seen of it. The soul is the only eternal existence. It is the soul that suffers after death. We must therefore make use of the flesh body (also the false body) to save the real one (soul).

According to teachings, there are altogether five forms of existence and they are heaven-dwellers, to which Gods and good spirits belong, human beings, animals, ghosts and hell-dwellers. It is interesting to note that we human beings actually have the best chance to obtain and cultivate Tao and to become a Buddha than the other four forms of existence. Hell-dwellers, ghost and animal practically have little or no chance of getting it because of their self-insufficiency and limitation but why are heaven-dwellers who are supposed to be at a higher level than human beings? The answer is that life in heaven is too rich with too many pleasures. A heaven-dweller, so busy just enjoying life, has no inclination toward further cultivation. Only a human being who has the brain capacity to receive the teachings, who has suffered hardships and sorrows that serve as alarms to stimulate one to search for a way to be rid of those sufferings and above all possess the ability to cultivate and spread Tao.

Also, various good spirits and deities possess certain powers which human beings usually lack. However the powers of these good spirits and deities are limited because they are also transitory beings. They exist in happy abodes and enjoy their life for a longer period than human beings. When they have exhausted all the good karmas, they shall reborn somewhere else according to the merit of their karmas. In this respect whether they are great or small, both human beings and deities are perishable and subject to rebirth.

In some respects, animals are superior to us. Dogs have a keener hearing; insects have a greater sense of smell; eagle can see a greater distance. Undoubtedly, men are wiser; but men have to learn much from the ants and bees. Much of the animal is still in us. But also have much more in us. We have the potential of spiritual development.

### b) The opportunity of being born a Chinese

Tao is just and upright; in absolute perfection; it is not one-sided discrimination. Tao is a direct path descended from heaven. The origins of Tao started in China. The word 'China' means 'middle' with regard to the world. Concurrently, in China a Kunlun mountain is situated right at the centre of the globe. According to the principle of Tao, it is the highest mountain in the world, and also known as 'the roof of the world'. Life spring into existence originally in China. Logically, 'Kunlun' mountain forms the link between heaven and earth. It

is the location where the heaven river flows down and unite with the Huang He River at the foot of the mountain. The water from the Yellow River is said to be cleared for three days when a messenger from God is born on earth. Due to its structure in relationship with the Truth, it is natural that the first man should be born in China. Therefore, China has the earliest civilisation and cultivation in history. Each time when Heaven sent Tao down to earth, the Chinese is always given preference to hear of it and to cultivate it. There is nothing peculiar because Tao started originally there. Hence, the Chinese race speaks more of morality. The Chinese is therefore, the most fortunate people to hear of Tao so much earlier than other races.

#### C) The right timing of the third 'White Stage'

Ever since the birth of first man on earth, the total period has been divided into 3 stages. They are known as the 'green stage', the 'red stage', and the 'white stage'. During the 'green period' the people were good. They were as innocent as a white sheet of paper with no desires, greed or hatred. It is named the 'green stage', because the people at that stage like green colour. At the 'red stage', the hearts of man were gradually lured by earthly attractions. They started to kill for the greed of money. The people at that stage like red colour. It was symbolised on wedding or any auspicious day where people like to dress themselves 'red'. Now, it is the 'white stage'. The hearts of man flared worst. Crimes committed by man of the 'white stage' reached its climax. The Heaven God was enraged. As a result, He sent down calamities to rid of all evil man. On the other hand, He cares for the good people. Thereupon, He sent Tao down to save the good people back to heaven. If it is not for the 'third stage', it is difficult for one to hear of Tao.

#### D) The chance of getting the real truth of Tao

At the 'third white stage', Tao is widely spread. The three difficulties which have just been mentioned can easily be solved. But the fourth many not be so. Though many chances are offered but those who acquired Tao and carry out self-cultivation till the end is like the morning stars. What causes this to happen? It was because of the numerous crimes they have committed in their past lives. They have owed too much of others. Thus they are obstructed or disturbed by their spiritual creditors, thereby depriving him of the chance to reveal himself to Tao. Others indulged in wine-consumption, sensual pleasures, hot-temper, money conscious or neglecting inner qualities. They are blinded by fame and love affairs. The root of Tao has been neglected. It is also because of the appearance of many outward religions. There are followers of these religions who do not follow the ethical code of conduct but make use of the reputation of certain Gods to attract and obscured the wisdom of the people who only pray for advantages and wishes in return. False religion leads nowhere. Those who follow them suffer in the end; whereas those who had found the root became the Enlightened One (Buddha). The most difficult to get in the world is a human body, and the most difficult thing a human body gets is Tao. Unless those who have a sound knowledge of Tao or the good deeds inherited from ancestors, it is indeed impossible to obtain the precious Tao.