



Sinological English I

Module Code: SICH4002

Module Tutor:

Student Name: Ren Estienne

Student ID: 2016032

Date: 14 July 2022

A faint, detailed botanical line drawing of a plant with several large, pointed leaves and a cluster of small, five-petaled flowers. The drawing is centered behind the main title text.

Governance by no-action



Table of contents

INTRODUCTION

INTERPRETATION OF THE CHAPTER

CONCLUSION: PERSONAL PERCEPTION





Introduction

CHAPTER 63

為無為，事無事，味無味。

大小多少，「報怨以德。」圖難於其易，為大於其細；天下難事，必作於易，天下大事，必作於細。是以聖人終不為大，故能成其大。

夫輕諾必寡信，多易必多難。是以聖人猶難之，故終無難矣。





Interpretation of the chapter – Part 1

為無為

James Legge: "It is the way of the Dao to act without thinking of acting."

D.C. Lau: "Do that which consists in taking no action."



事無事

James Legge: "to conduct affairs without feeling the trouble of them."

味無味

James Legge: "to taste without discerning any flavor."

Xu Yuanchong: "take the tasteful as if it were tasteless."



Part 2

大小多少：

"The great originates from the small, the many commences from the few."

報怨以德：

If others resent me, I will repay him/her with kindness.

圖難於其易，為大於其細；天下難事，必作於易，天下大事，必作於細：

“(The master of it) anticipates things that are difficult while they are easy, and does things that would become great while they are small. All difficult things in the world are sure to arise from a previous state in which they were easy, and all great things from one in which they were small.”



Part 2

是以聖人終不為大，故能成其大。

D.C.Lau:

"Therefore it is because the sage never attempts to be great that he succeeds in becoming great."





Part 3

夫輕諾必寡信，多易必多難。

- Xu Yuanchong:
"Much underestimation will entail much difficulty."
- D.C. Lau:
"One who is in the habit of considering things easy meets with frequent difficulties."
- James Legge:
"He who is continually thinking things easy is sure to find them difficult."

Sages' Wisdom

Xu Yuanchong:

"Therefore the sage anticipates all difficulties,
so there is nothing difficult in the end."

"Therefore the sage
sees difficulty even in
what seems easy"



"that is why in the end
no difficulties can get
the better of him."





Conclusion

Actions

Affairs

Flavors



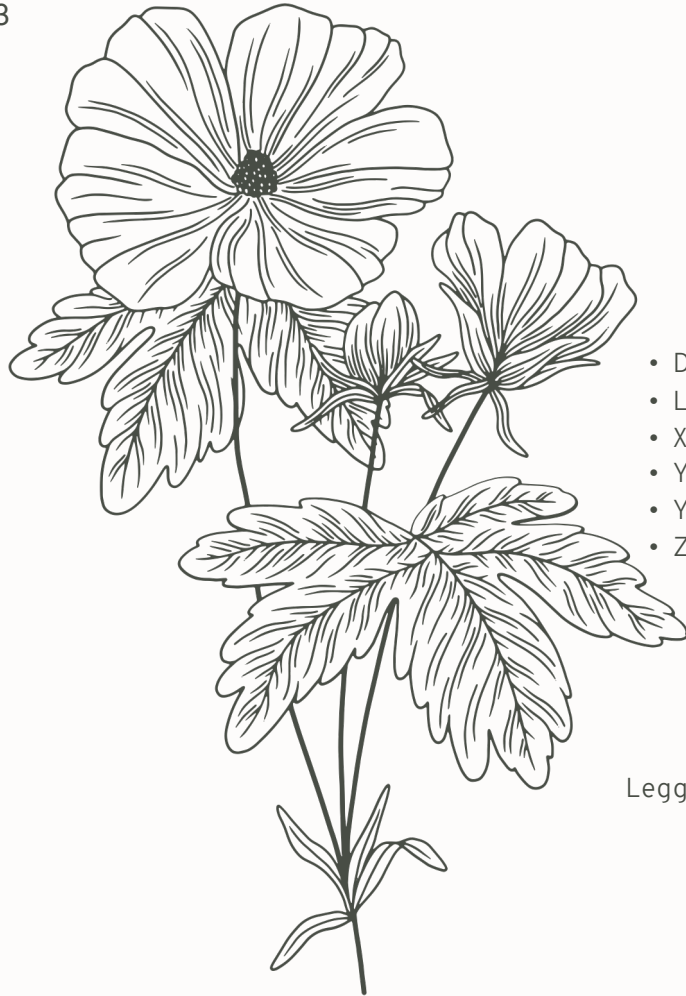


Conclusion

Laozi teaches us to not consider ourselves great,
be modest and respect everything.

"Be occupied while free and be free while occupied."





Bibliography

BOOKS

- D'ambrosio et al., The Annotated Critical Laozi (Leiden: Koninklijke Brill NV, 2020)
- Lau, D.C., Lao Tzu Tao Te Ching (New York: Penguin Books, 1963).
- X.Y.Z., The Old Master Modernized Laws Divine and Human (Beijing: Higher Education Press, 2013)
- Yan, Lingfeng, Comprehensive Interpretation of the Laozi (Taipei: Huanzheng Shuju, 2008)
- Yu, Peilin, Xinshi Laozi Duben (Taipei: Sanmin Shuju Gufen Youxian Gongsi, 2017)
- Zhang, Youheng, Laozhuang Baihua Jieshi (Tainan: Jilesi Tainanshi Jingzong Xuehui, 2015)

WEBSITES

Legge, James, Chinese Text Project (1885) <<https://ctext.org/dao-de-jing>> [accessed 20 July 2022]

Thank you
for listening!

