

The Translation of Chapter 58 of *Daodejing*

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Outline

Interpretation of the original text

The Version of Venerable Hanshan

Conclusion and Self-Reflection



其政悶悶，其民醇醇。其政察察，其民缺缺。禍兮福所倚，福兮禍所伏。孰知其極，其無正耶。

If the country's politics is tolerant and benevolent, the people will be honest and sincere. The country's policies are strict, people will complain and not be satisfied. Disaster and happiness are interdependent, and disaster often hides in happiness. Who knows what it will eventually become? Nothing is fixed.

正復為奇，善復為妖。人之迷，其日固久。是以聖人方而不割，廉而不剝，直而不肆，光而不耀。

Normal will become oddity, and kindness will become evil. Human doubts have existed for a long time. With the virtue of sages, they are frank and do not hurt others, they are upright and do not criticize others, they are honest and do not be presumptuous and glory without ostentation.

此詳言上章有為之害，而示之以無為之方也。悶悶，無知貌。所謂民可使由之，不可使知之之意。由百姓皆注其耳目，若示有知，即上云法令滋彰，盜賊多有矣。故聖人潛行密用，令其悶悶然若無所知。

This chapter describes in detail that intentional intervention in people is harmful and teach to govern the world without being the touch to anything. The Chinese characters 悶悶, it is to describe the appearance of unknown. It means that people should be guided and should not be allowed to add too much knowledge. People pay much attention to the feelings of their eyes and ears, if they increase their knowledge, there will be more and more laws and more thieves. If the sage only guides the people silently and keeps
4 them in a state of unknown.

則民情不鑿，奸偽自然不生。故其政悶悶，其民醇醇。
若其政令察察然分星擘兩，則民多不自安，缺缺然憂有餘
矣。故云其政察察，其民缺缺。缺缺，多憂不足之意。

If the people are simple, they will not break the law, which is called 其政悶悶，其民醇醇。 If the decree is too complex, the people will worry about violating the law and suffering losses, which is called 其政察察，其民缺缺. The Chinese characters 缺缺 means worry about insufficient income.

蓋禍福之機，端在人心之所萌。若其機善，則禍轉為福。若其機不善，則福轉而為禍。此禍福相倚伏也。

In fact, the key to misfortune and happiness lies in the beginning of people's mind. If people have a kind thought, the disaster will turn into a blessing. If people have evil thoughts, good things will become bad. This is the truth that misfortunes and blessings depend on each other.

由人機心不息，則禍福旋轉如循環之無端，人孰能知其止極耶。故孔子曰，知機其神乎，謂是故也。然禍福循環之如此，豈無真人而以理正之耶。

People's thoughts don't stop for a moment, so misfortune and blessing keep circulating. People don't know when it will stop. Therefore, Confucius said that knowing the key to things is very magical, it what they talk about. There is such a cycle of misfortunes and blessings, is there no sage to correct the people.

但世衰道微，人心不古，邪正不分，善惡顛倒。本示之以正，則彼反以為奇詭。本教之以善，而彼反以為妖怪。正所謂未信而勞諫，則以為厲謗。

Just because the social atmosphere is declining and the human heart is not honest and simple, evil and good cannot be distinguish, and kindness and evil are reversed. When a sage tells truth, it is easy to be regarded as a fallacy. Sages teach to be kindness, but they are considered monsters. It is the so-called failure to listen to advice and criticism, but it is considered to be slandering him.

此人心之迷固已久矣，縱有聖人之教，亦不能正之矣。莊子曰，三人行，一人迷方，猶有解者。二人惑，則不能易。今天下皆迷，其誰能解之耶。

People's hearts have been lost for too long, even if they are taught by sages, they can't be completely corrected. Zhuang Zi said that when three people walk together, one loses his way, and there is still a way to save him. If the two people get lost, the rescue is not easy. Now people all over the world have lost their way, who can save them.

是以聖人遊濁世以化民，貴在同塵和光，渾然無跡。故雖方而不傷其割。割，謂割截，乃鋒稜太露也。雖廉而不傷於劇。劇，謂刻削太甚也。雖直而不傷於肆。

Sages educate people in the turbid world. The important thing is that they will not show themselves. They have no edge and corner. They will do the same things as ordinary people without showing their edge. They are upright and will not hurt others, the Chinese character 劇 means that stab something deeply with the tip of a knife. Honest but not presumptuous. The Chinese character 肆 means willful without any scruples.

雖光而不傷於耀。耀，謂銜耀己見也。此聖人有所長，而能養其所長，故為天下貴。此所以無為而治，好靜而自安，無為而民自化矣。

Although they are dazzling, however, they never shows off themselves. The Chinese character 耀 means show off their opinions. Sages have their own strengths, but they never rely on them, so they are the most noble people in the world. Sages govern the country with no intention. they love peace, people are naturally stable. The sages do not touch to anything, people are naturally influenced



Conclusion and Self-Reflection

There are reversals everywhere in life



感谢观看

Thanks for Listening

