

## QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN LAO:

## On Yin Revolution

"It is taught in books of strategy: 'Never be so rash as to open hostilities; always be on the defense at first.' Also: 'Hesitate to advance an inch but be always ready to retreat a foot.' In other words, it is wiser even in war to depend upon craft and skill instead of force."

"When well-matched armies come to conflict, the one which regrets the need for fighting always wins."

"The good commander strikes a decisive blow, then stops. He does not dare assert and complete his mastery. He will strike the blow, but will guard against becoming arrogant. For he strikes from necessity, and not out of a zest for victory."

"Both arms and armor are unblessed things. Not only do men come to detest them -- but a curse seems to follow them. Therefore, the True Man avoids depending upon arms."

"I am teaching what others have taught -- that the powerful and aggressive seldom come to natural deaths. But I make this wisdom the basis of my whole outlook."

"If one attempts to govern either himself or another, he is sure to become frustrated. For it will seem that whatever he tries to grasp, slips away. The Sage makes no such attempts, makes no failures, has nothing to lose -- is therefore at peace with himself."

"He who wants to take over the country and remake it under his own reforming plans will fail. 'Mankind' is an abstract concept that cannot be remade after one's own ideas. Under any system of reform, a ruler must make use of different, real-life people -- some as they seem and some not, some who will assist and others who will resist, some strong and some brittle and unsafe to rely on. That is why the Sage never tries to take over things and reform men, but is instead content to reform himself -- letting others follow his example, but never forcing them."

## Water Power!

"Nothing is more fragile, yet of all the agencies that attack hard substances nothing excels water. Likewise, the powerless can wear down the mighty and the gentle survive the strong. (Everyone knows this but few can practice it.) So the Sage accepts the disgrace of his country and in so doing becomes a true patriot; he is patient under the misfortunes of his cause and is therefore worthy to lead it."

(Translated from the TAO TEH CHING of Lao-tse by Ho Chi Zen.)

