

Weekly Tao Spiritual Discussion Holy Teaching

De-Guang Temple, Irvine CA
Pu-Guang Temple, Plano TX
December 12th 2020

onegreatdao.org

Four Great Books in Confucius Holy Teaching Important for Our Spiritual Cultivation

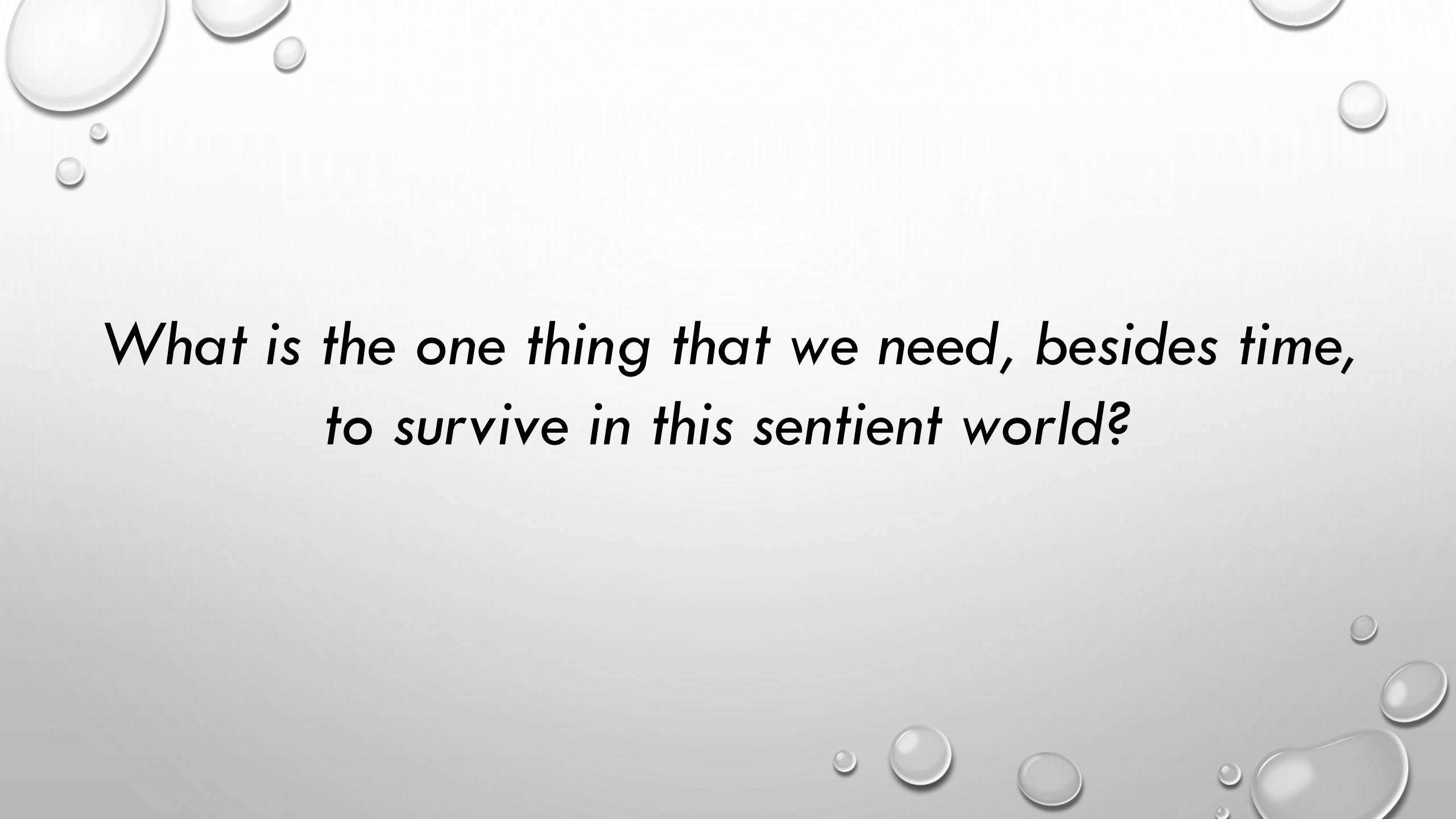
Confucius Analects

Book of Great Learning

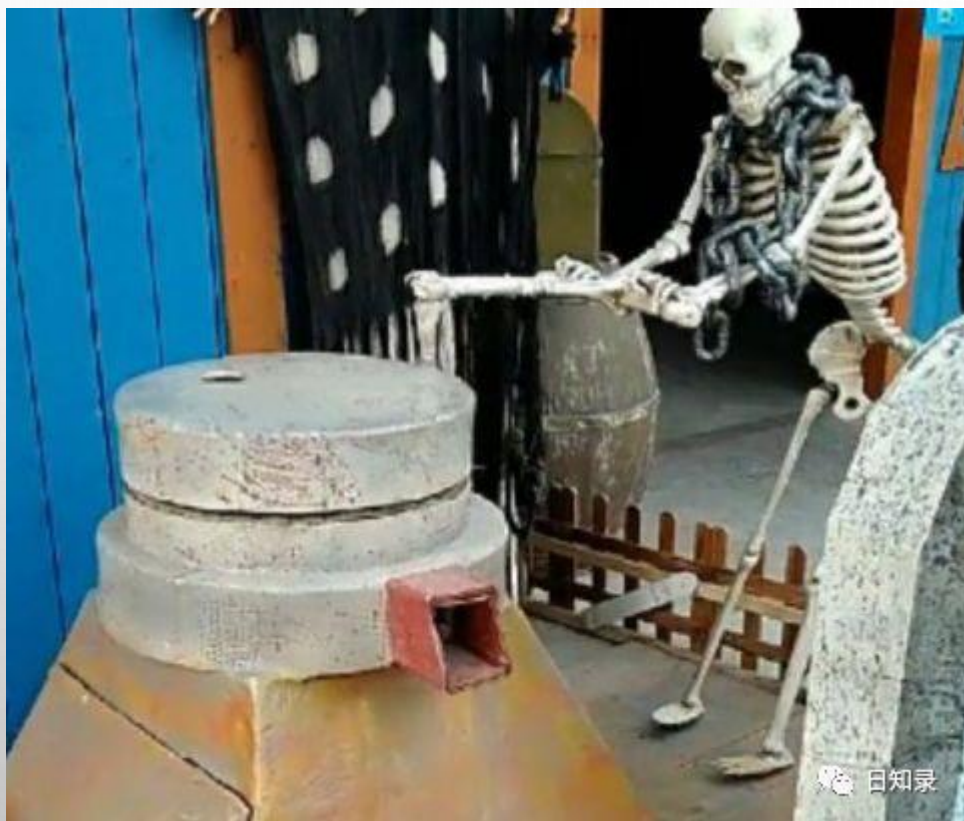
Doctrine of the Mean

Book of Mencius





*What is the one thing that we need, besides time,
to survive in this sentient world?*



有錢能使鬼推磨
Money will make the
ghost turn millstones.

是故君子先慎乎德。有德此有人，有人此有土，有土此有財，有財此有用。德者本也，財者末也，外本內末，爭民施奪。是故財聚則民散，財散則民聚。

The ruler will first be prudent about his own virtue. Possessing virtue will gain him the people. Having the people will secure the territory. Securing the territory will provide him wealth. Having the wealth, he will have resources to bring prosperity to the kingdom. Virtue is the root; wealth is the result. If he make the root his secondary object, and the result his primary, he will only wrangle with his people, and teach them rapine. Hence, the accumulation of wealth for oneself is the way to divide the people; and scattering the wealth amongst the people is the way to unify them.

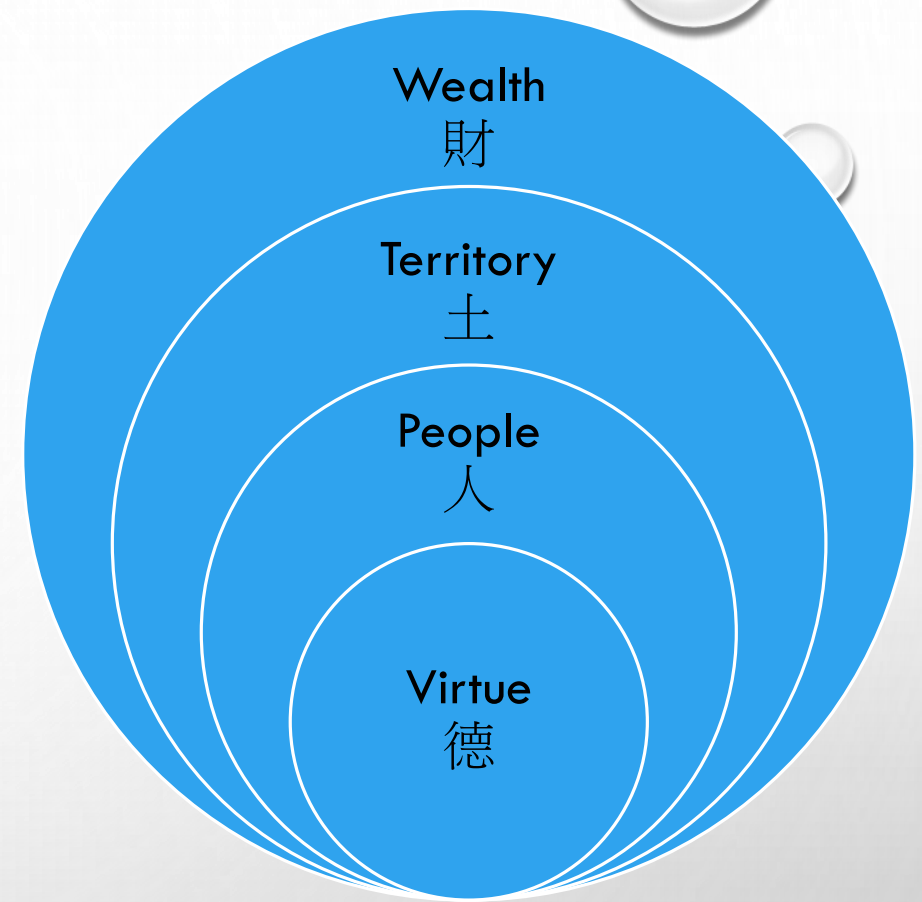


1. The ruler will first be prudent about his own virtue. Possessing virtue will gain him the people.
2. Having the people will secure the territory.
3. Securing the territory will provide him wealth.
4. Having the wealth, he will have resources to bring prosperity to the kingdom.

Root: Virtue. | Result: Wealth.

君子愛財 取之有道 However, a virtuous person acquires niceties in life through virtuous methods, conducting his affairs according to Tao.

Hence, the accumulation of wealth for oneself is the way to divide the people; and scattering the wealth amongst the people is the way to unify them.

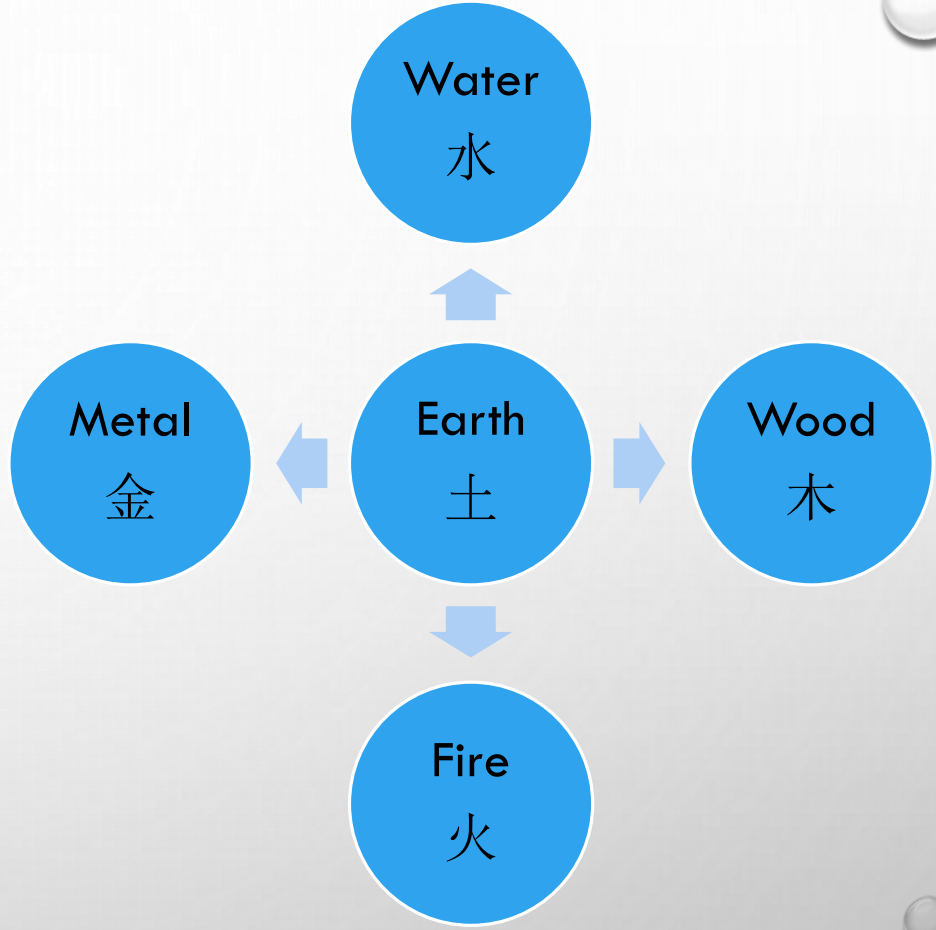


Five Elements 五行

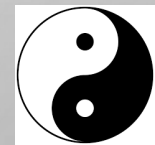


Abundant in Nature

Balanced with Mutual Existence

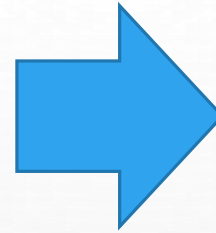
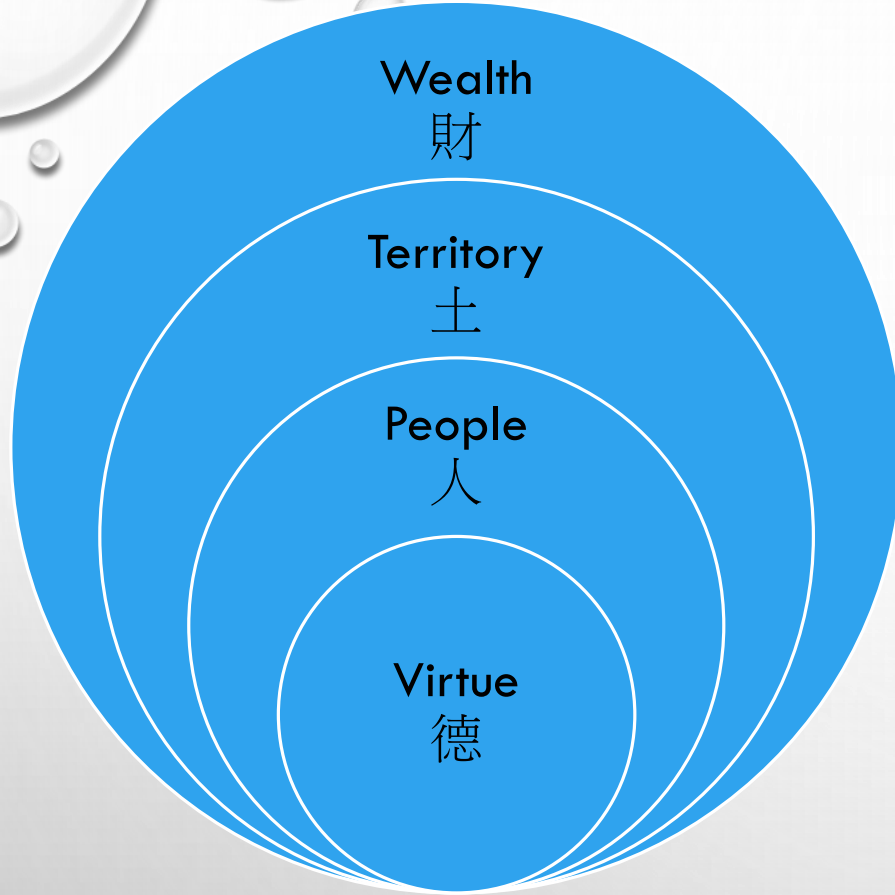


Yang: Wood and Fire
Yin: Metal and Water

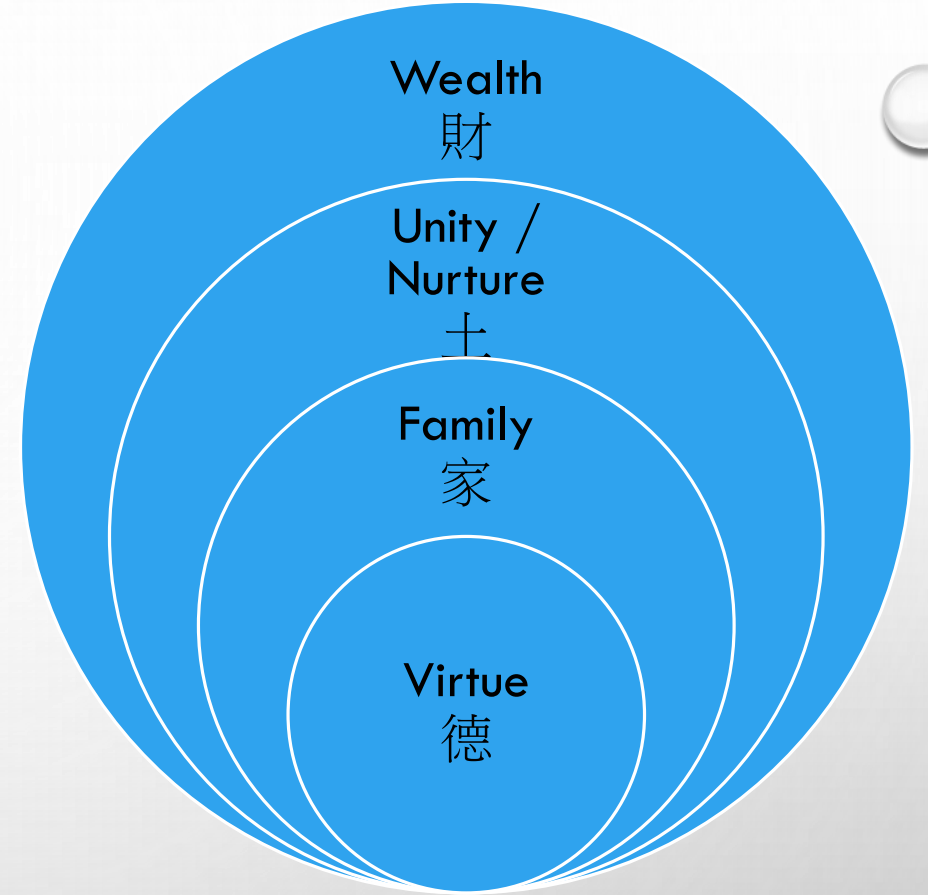


Earth: Neutral that supports and unifies others

Kingdom



Family



In a more personal context as Tao cultivators, use money as an effective instrument to share, contribute, or donate to help unify and nurture family along the journey of spiritual cultivation, with virtues being our own solid foundation.



Nearly one-third of U.S. lottery winners declare bankruptcy, often within just a few years of their big win, according to a study by Wolf Street.

There are several success stories as well.

Family of Jackpot Winners Joins Together to Improve Their City

Pearlie Mae Smith raised her seven children to be aware of how important it is to **give back to their community**, and those children grew up volunteering in soup kitchens and working in community gardens.

So when the family won a **\$429 million Powerball jackpot**, it was clear to them that they wanted to use this windfall to do even more good for the people around them who weren't so lucky. Some families kept their jobs and used part of the windfall to donate and support various charities. The family also started the [Smith Family Foundation](#) to provide funding for grassroots organizations who were working to improve the lives of people in their hometown of Trenton, New Jersey. The foundation's priorities include **education, neighborhood development, Christian education, and supporting youth and families** in the Trenton area.

水能载舟，亦能覆舟

Water can support and keep a ship afloat.

Water can also capsize a ship.



Just like water which could keep a ship afloat or capsize a ship,
mis-use of money could either unify or divide a family.

Without Tao spiritual cultivation, one could unknowingly commit
acts with money to cause division in own family.

Miser and Grim Reaper



Moral of the Story

Human, came to the world unwillingly, cried as an abandoned orphan.

Human, left the world also unwillingly, cried with lifelong regrets.

We will lose possessions that we have when we ultimately have to face Death
one day.

Treasures the time we have and live our life with no regrets.

Use our money effectively, instead of hoarding for self.

Thoughts for Today

《Holy Teacher》

When we live not yet a hundred, we often worry beyond a thousand.

When we don't live to a hundred, we ponder about plans beyond a thousand. In the end?

We are all pass-by travelers with time passing by like flowing water,
We all seemed young once but turned old age within a blink of an eye,
We worked hard to accumulate wealth, but have regrets when facing
Death.

《大般若經》云：「一切修行當中，應先行布施。」布施為佛法修行的第一步，亦是菩薩行的第一綱目。

Mahā-prajñāpāramitā Sūtra: Amongst all the cultivation activities, one should try generosity first. Generosity is the first step in cultivation and represents the first of six perfections towards Buddhahood.



布施的意義與重要 Meaning and Significance with Generosity in Cultivation

(一) 捨己惠於人，方可名為施。 **Self sacrifice for others = Generosity.**

○ 布施乃是將自己的錢財、物品、慈悲心或微笑，施惠給予一切眾生。

Generosity means giving / donating our material wealth, heart of compassion, or simply a smile to extend and share blessings with other sentient beings.

(二) 布施是仁愛慈悲的表現，也是解脫苦惱的第一步。以財施眾生，使他們身心安樂，行法施、無畏施，令一切眾生皆能離苦得樂。 **Generosity is an expression of selfless love and compassion and represents the first steps to free ourselves from worries. Giving monetary wealth to improve others' well being. Spreading Dharma teaching or volunteering with courage to ease others' sufferings.**

(三) 布施度慳貪 | 覺照自己內心的貪吝 **Generosity mitigates miserliness and helps us see the greed in our own hearts.** 當布施給予時自然佛性朗現，心生歡喜，則心中之貪吝，已漸被降伏，此乃開始步入修行的初步。 **With our selfless acts in generosity, our True Self starts to emerge with feelings of joy, gradually mitigating the greed and miserliness in our hearts, to begin cultivating.**

布施的實踐 | 三施 Practicing Generosity | Three Types of Generosity

(一) 在身、語、意三方面，以真誠歡喜恭敬的心來為眾生服務，行三施 **Serve others sincerely, respectfully, and joyously in generosity with actions, words, and intentions.**

◎財施：外財是指身外之物，如七寶珍財、舍宅國城、妻子兒女等，內財是指自己的身體，如身肉手足、頭目腦髓、五臟六腑等真誠奉獻的財施乃積福於天，可以消冤業，是一切福的根源 **Giving Monetary Wealth: External wealth: Material possessions, e.g. jewels, properties, etc. Internal wealth: Using our knowledge and body. Generously and sincerely serve others. Source for additional blessings.**

◎法施：勸人為善，釋疑解惑，講經說法，使人明理。使眾生皆能行其正道，脫離苦海，同登道岸。渡人成全，苦口婆心，效法諸佛菩薩誓願渡盡天下眾生的慈悲精神。
Sharing of Dharma Teaching: Guide others to be kind, dispel doubts, & explain to help all understand Dharma teaching, to guide them onto the Path of Tao and reach salvation, while emulating compassionate spirit and vows of Buddha to help all beings.

◎無畏施：不惜一切犧牲全心奉獻，身不貪諸事安逸，能刻苦耐勞，心不起貪妄惡意，能克除降伏，性不著功德執相，能破迷離相；遇任何困難不退縮，了苦根培養浩然正氣。
Volunteering with Courage: Dedicate oneself wholeheartedly with no desire for comfort, work hard with a pure heart, do so selflessly with no expectations, and persevere through challenges without retreating, to grow and develop an abundance of virtues and righteousness.

七種不需本錢的布施 **Seven Acts of Generosity without Capital**

一為和顏施：對於別人給予和顏悅色。 **Pleasant and Kind Gesture**

二為言施：向人說好話的布施，存好心做好事做好人，並勉人切實力行。 **Say kind words, do kind deeds with a kind heart, and encourage others.**

三為心施：為對方設想的心，體貼眾生的心。 **Think of others and be considerate of others.**

四為眼施：用慈愛和氣的眼神看人。 **Look at others with kind eyes.**

五為身施：身體力行幫助別人。 **Personally act to help others.**

六為座施：讓座給需要的人。 **Give up seats to ones in need.**

七為察施：不用問對方就能察覺對方的心，並給予相對其所需的方便。
Perceive other person's thoughts without asking and provide them the convenience they need.

How to Sell Poor



Moral of the Story

Based on teachings about karma, one is born poor because of greed and miserliness from past lives. While most people believe that holding onto one's own wealth is the only way to accumulate wealth, most do not know that acts of greed and miserliness would be the cause of poverty in the next lives.

The art of giving does not limit to only material giving.

Thoughts for Today

《Holy Teacher》

There are five guarantees in life:

1. Merits can be accumulated and transcends beyond one lifetime.
2. Steer away from harm by practicing the precepts while enduring insults
3. Cultivate/propagate dharma teachings to help us achieve 德 (innate virtues, perfection in humanity).
4. Wealth of merits can be accumulated through practice of giving.
5. Cultivating humanity can guarantee the achieving of sagehood or buddhahood



恩師慈悲：不要忘記了你是為師的弟子，時時刻刻要做對眾生有益的事。行善的最高超最神聖處就是……「無為」之善！



Holy Teacher: Never forget that you are a disciple of Maitreya Buddha and Ji Gong Buddha and a messenger of Heavenly Mother. Do deeds that are beneficial to all beings at all times. The optimal mindset in generosity is to do good deeds with no expectations or intentions for reciprocity.

Summary

1. Cultivate to develop our virtues, as our foundation, as we practice generosity, to help unify family and lead us towards Buddhahood.
2. Serve others sincerely, respectfully, and joyously in generosity with our actions, words, and intentions. The optimal mindset in generosity is to do good deeds with no expectations or intentions for reciprocity.
3. The acts of generosity do not have to involve capital → Seven Acts of Generosity.



*THE JOURNEY OF TAO CULTIVATION IS OPEN TO ALL.
MAY YOUR JOURNEY BE FILLED WITH PEACE,
WISDOM, COMPASSION, AND HAPPINESS.*