

**CLIMATE AND HEALTH:
THE DAOIST PERSPECTIVE OF
“RESONANCE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND
MANKIND” 天人感應**

Master LEUNG Tak-wah

Chairperson of Hong Kong Taoist Association and
Fung Ying Seen Koon

INTRODUCTION

- + *Daode jing* 道德經 says:
“Mankind takes his law from the Earth; the Earth takes its law from Heaven; Heaven takes its law from the Dao. The law of the Dao is its being what it is.”
人法地，地法天，天法道，道法自然
- + The term 自然 not only means ecological environment, but a principle that allows things to adapt to their own regular rules.
- + This section of the *Daode jing* is the foundation of Daoist beliefs.

THE ESSENCE OF PROBLEM

- + The global climate crisis is a harmful consequence caused by a series of long-term cumulative human intervention.
- + This is a crisis in the relationship between mankind and nature.

RESONANCE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND MANKIND

天人感應

- + We should try to cherish our living world by love and humility.
- + Human life style should coordinate with the laws of nature to form a harmonious coexistence relationship.
- + Daoist perspective: human spirit and behavior mutually connect with the natural world.
- + The stability of ecology is the foundation and guarantee of human civilization.

DAOIST TEACHINGS

- + “Respecting the Heaven and Earth” 敬畏天地 and “return to the simplicity and truth” 反樸歸真.
- + People should not violate the laws of nature but respect it.
- + Because of greed, human destroy the natural balance.
- + Our modern development and economic achievements will only be built in the danger of being trapped.

DAOIST TEACHINGS

+ *Daode jing* says:

“Colour's five hues from the eyes their sight will take;
Music's five notes the ears as deaf can make; The
flavours five deprive the mouth of taste; The chariot
course, and the wild hunting waste make mad the
mind; and objects rare and strange, sought for, men's
conduct will to evil change” 五色令人目盲；五音令人
耳聾；五味令人口爽；馳騁田獵，令人心發狂；
難得之貨，令人行妨。

+

DAOIST TEACHINGS

+ *Daode jing* also says:

“Misery! - happiness is to be found by its side.

Happiness! - misery lurks beneath it”

禍兮福之所倚， 福兮禍之所伏。

+ We enjoy the comfortable material life brought by high technology in luxury, we are also overdrafting our future happiness.

CONCLUSION

- + If the main cause of the climate change is artificially excessive intervention in nature, then the crisis of dealing with human climate and health is not simply a superficial “eliminating physical illness”. It is to start from “treatment of the heart” 治心.

THANK YOU!