



紀念金公祖師160歲誕辰暨天然古佛成道65週年感恩大會

Commemoration of the 160th Anniversary of Patriarch Jin-Gong's Birth and the 65th Anniversary of Buddha Tianran's Return to Heaven



後身身先、外身身存的聖人之道

～祝賀美國一貫道總會舉辦紀念金公祖師一百六十歲誕辰暨天然古佛成道六十五週年感恩大會及發揚中華道統文化暨 45 孝親感恩活動

一貫道世界總會 袁翥鶚 理事長

自然界中，天地人物，凡是屬於有形體而有實質的東西，終究必有毀壞消失的一天。然則，天地何以能存在如許之久？

老子以為是因天地有「以其不自生」的精神。老子認為天地有其大德的緣故，那便是純粹為利他而生，而且是至公無私的，毫無保留，一無條件地所謂犧牲奉獻。其所施的對象既沒有親疏遠近，也沒有貴賤與好惡之分，所謂天無私覆，地無私載，日月無私照，說明它是完全沒有分別的私心，就是這一緣故，所以能天長地久的道理在此。

聖人有鑑於此，於是法天象地，效法天地無私而利他的方式，去進行著他的職責行事。例如，在名位上、權勢上、乃至貨財等等的處分上，必是先人而後己，絕不與天下爭其先，這就叫做「後其身」。然而正因為聖人有不爭之德，卻反而受到世人的推愛，天與之而人歸之，千秋萬世之後，長受人崇拜，那樣則聖人的成就又佔先了一般人之前了，所謂必得其壽，必得其位，必得其名，那便是叫做「身先」的道理了。

其次，所謂「外其身」者，乃是指出聖人的心量是以道德為本，沒有我相，不求一己私人的榮顯，而在在處處都是捨己為人的，是置自身的利害於度外，這就叫做「外其身」。而「身存」者，是正因為他能有克己無私而忘我之德，最後終於道成天上，名留世間，其德業和精神，萬世永在，是已得大解脫了，故曰「身存」。這個身，自然指的是法身。

今天大家相聚在美國洛杉磯僑教中心，共同參與美國一貫道總會所舉辦的「紀念金公祖師一百六十歲誕辰暨天然古佛成道六十五週年感恩大會及發揚中華道統文化暨 45 孝親感恩活動」，讓我們深刻體會老祖師、師尊、師母暨各組線道場各位老前人輩、前賢輩們，都如同老子所



說的，「以其不自生，故能長生。」「是以聖人，後其身而身先，外其身而身存。」的真正生命大學問。其實，在我們的家族，有我們祖先父母，奉獻自身，護持子孫成長，代代傳承，血脈方能延續至今。亦如在我們的道場，有我們老祖師、師尊、師母暨各組線道場前賢輩們，「忘己為人，誠敬奉獻」的慧命薪傳，道脈天命亦方能傳承永續，這都是因為與「天之道，利而不害；聖人之道，為而不爭」相契應。

今天在大家同沐在紀念金公祖師一百六十歲誕辰暨天然古佛成道六十五週年感恩大會及發揚中華道統文化暨 45 孝親感恩活動的安祥氣息中，一貫道世界總會謹以老子這段話與大家共勉，也敬邀大家永續老實修辦，法天則地，發揮聖賢氣象，道氣自盎然，道務必弘展，老祖師、師尊、師母傳道的宗旨理想終可實現。敬祝大家聖凡如意吉祥，道務弘展，大會成功圓滿。





紀念金公祖師160歲誕辰暨天然古佛成道65週年感恩大會

Commemoration of the 160th Anniversary of Patriarch Jin-Gong's Birth and the 65th Anniversary of Buddha Tianran's Return to Heaven



**Place self last and yet triumph first.
Place self outside and yet shine forever.**

--- The Tao of Sages

Congratulatory Speech by Elder Master Chih-O Yuan:

Congratulations to I-Kuan Tao USA for holding the Commemoration of the 160th Anniversary of Patriarch Jin-Gong's Birth, the 65th Anniversary of Buddha Tianran's Return to Heaven, Advancement of Traditional Chinese Culture and 4/5 Parent Appreciation Activity

In the nature, the heaven and the earth, mankind and things, anything belonging to the physical and material realm will one day ultimately be destroyed and vanish. However, why have the heaven and the earth continued to exist as long as such?

Lao Tse considered that it was their spirit of “not existing for themselves”. Lao Tse thought the possession of great virtue by the heaven and the earth was the cause. They exist purely for serving life's ends. Moreover, they are absolutely fair and square without reservation. They make so-called sacrifice and dedication unconditionally. The subjects they serve are not differentiated either according to their familiar or unfamiliar, remote or near condition, or according to their eminence or modesty, likes or dislikes. This is the so-called heaven's selfless shielding, earth's selfless bearing as well as sun's and moon's selfless shining. It tells that they have absolutely no discriminating selfish mind. This is why the heaven and the earth are everlasting.

Upon reviewing this, the sages then proceeded into the deepest mode of practicing Tao. They carried out their duties by following the example of the selfless and altruistic way of the heaven and the earth. For example, on fame



and power as well as wealth management, sages always considered other people's benefits first but theirs last. They never competed with the world to receive benefits first. This is called "Place self last". Nevertheless, it was because of their non-competing virtue; on the contrary, they were commended by people of the world. The Heaven reinforced sages and the people pledged allegiance to them. After thousands of generations, they were still revered for long. With this respect in mind, the sages' achievements preempted those of the ordinary people's. It was a certainty that they would achieve longevity, rank, and reputation. This is called the Principle of "Triumph first".

Secondly, the significance of "Place self outside" points at the sages' mind capacity, the basis of which is morality. They had no perception of self, and did not seek their own honor and fame. In every respect, they were self-sacrificed to benefit others, without considering their own personal benefits. This is called the Principle of "Place self outside". The significance of "Shine forever" is because sages had the virtue of self-discipline, selflessness, and self-oblivion, they could finally attain Buddhahood in Heaven and be remembered and respected on earth. They attained the ultimate relief. This is why it's called "Shine forever". The self which shines is naturally the embodiment of truth and law.

Today, we gather at the Culture Center of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles. Together we participate in the Commemoration of the 160th Anniversary of Patriarch Jin-Gong's Birth, the 65th Anniversary of Buddha Tianran's Return to Heaven, Advancement of Traditional Chinese Culture and 45 Parent Appreciation Activity held by I-Kuan Tao USA. Let us understand deeply the great learning of true life of The Elder Patriarch, The Patriarch, The Matriarch and every elder Qian Ren, and senior Tao members of every branch of I-Kuan Tao. It's just like what Lao Tse said: "They do not





紀念金公祖師160歲誕辰暨天然古佛成道65週年感恩大會

Commemoration of the 160th Anniversary of Patriarch Jin-Gong's Birth and the 65th Anniversary of Buddha Tianran's Return to Heaven

exist for themselves and thus can exist forever.” “Therefore the sages place themselves last and yet triumph first”. In fact, within our clan, our ancestors and parents sacrifice themselves to protect and support the growth of their offspring so that generations can pass on, and the blood relationship continues to last till now. This is just like our Tao cultivation field in which we have The Elder Patriarch, The Patriarch, The Matriarch, and all senior Tao members of every branch of Tao community. With the spirit of self-oblivion for the sake of others and sincere self-sacrifice, they pass on the essence of the true nature. Therefore, the transmission of Heavenly Decree of Tao can last forever. This is because it resonates with the principle of “The Tao of heaven is to nourish and undernourish not. The Tao of sages is to tend and contend not.”

Today we immerse ourselves in this peaceful and composed atmosphere of the Commemoration of the 160th Anniversary of Patriarch Jin-Gong's Birth, the 65th Anniversary of Buddha Tianran's Return to Heaven, Advancement of Traditional Chinese Culture and 45 Parent Appreciation Activity. The World I-Kuan Tao Headquarters present respectfully these quotes by Lao Tse to share with you so that we can use them to encourage one another. Also, I would like to cordially invite everybody to perpetually continue honest cultivation and propagation of Tao, follow the example of the nature and bring the sages' prevailing spirit into full play. With the exuberance of Tao spirit, the Tao mission will definitely expand at a large scale. The Elder Patriarch, The Patriarch, and The Matriarch's kind ideals will eventually come true. I wish everyone well in their spiritual and earthly lives, prosperity in promoting the Tao mission, and a complete success for the Event.

Translated by: Cheuk Fai Wu