

dà dào zhī xíng2 yě

C016: 大道之行也 (When the Great Way is Underway)

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I will teach you the contents of this piece of writing later. The important thing here is not to show you how well I write. On the contrary, I do not write well. But I do want to show the “freedom” with which I write. I remember I said before that when you write, do not put your elbow or wrist on the table. I might not have explained to you clearly why. It is very simple: if you put your wrist or elbow on the writing table, you will not enjoy the freedom of writing. One can even write while standing.

One does want to enjoy the “freedom” when he or she writes. Otherwise, the purpose of writing is defeated. This simple fact was never taught in the classrooms ever. Everybody was busy trying to evaluate how well one wrote. They even encouraged a student to copy the masters from the very beginning. That was wrong – in the sense that the cart was put in front of the horses. One needs to feel the freedom of writing, to build up his or her own style, and then to look at others’ styles for references. Therefore, to copy the masters’ styles from the beginning is the same as putting oneself in prison. How wrong!

The same as in painting, that one enjoys the painting process is important. If one cannot enjoy the process, why bother?

dà dào zhī xíng2 yě tiān xià wéi gōng suàn xián jǔ néng jiǎng xìn xiū mù
 大道之行也，天下為公。(When the Great Way is underway, the world belongs to everybody.) 選賢舉能，講信脩睦。(We
 will elect the best and the most capable; we will treat our neighbors and one another with trust-worthiness and peace.)
 gù rén bù dú qīn qī qīn bù dú zǐ
 故人不獨親戚親，不獨子
 qí zǐ shǐ lǎo yǒu suǒ zhōng zhuàng yǒu suǒ yǒu yòu yǒu suǒ
 其子。(Therefore, we will not only treat our own kins as kins, not only our own kids as kids.) 使老有所終，壯有所有，幼有所
 cháng guān guǎ gū dú fá jí zhě jiē yǒu suǒ yǎng
 長，鰥寡孤獨廢疾者皆有所養。(We will make it happen that the old have a place to retire and rest, the strong have opportunities to
 utilize their strengths, and the kids are brought up properly; the widowed, the orphaned, the bachelors, the handicapped, and the sick are all well taken care
 of.)
 nán yǒu fēn nǚ yǒu guī huò ě qí qì yú dì yě bù bì cáng yú
 男有分，女有歸。(The male stand up to their responsibilities; the female find a good husband.) 貨惡其棄于地也，不必藏于
 jǐ lì ě qí bù chū yú shēn yě bù bì wéi jǐ
 己。(A piece of merchandise does not have to be stored in my own storage, as long as it is not wasted.) 力惡其不出於身也，不必為己。



gù móu bì ér bù xīng

(My strengths do not have to be utilized for myself, as long as they do not sit idly within my body.) 故謀閉而不興， (People no longer plot against one

dào qiè luàn zéi ér bù zuò

another;) 盜竊亂賊而不作。 (they stop stealing and robbing from one another.) 故外戶而不閉。 (Therefore, there is no longer need to shut

gù wài hù ér bù bì

shì wèi dà tóng

the yard door.) 是謂大同。 (Now, The World Belongs to Everybody.)