

# *LIBER XXIHING KANG KING THE CLASSIC OF PURITY*

*1. first written down by me KO YUENLAO-TZU) in the Episode  
of the Dynasty of Wu and now made into a Rime by me  
ALEISTER CROWLEY*

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Imperator*

## *I*

LAO KUN THE MASTER SAID:.....TAO IS DEVOID OF FORM -YET  
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE BROUGHT TO BIRTH,.....AND NURTURED BY  
ITS NORM.

TAO HATH NO WILL TO WORK;..... YET BY ITS WAY OF HEAVEN THE  
MOON AND SUN REJOICE TO RUN..... AMONG THE STARRY SEVEN.

TAO HATH NO NAME; ITS WORD..... IS GROWTH, AND SUSTENANCE TO  
ALL; I AIM TO GIVE IT NAME:.....TAO (HEAVEN PROSPER CHANCE!)

TAO HATH TWIN PHASE WITH TEH:..... THE SILENT AND THE  
STRESSED. OF MOTION, THOSE; OF THESE, REPOSE..... SUBLIMELY  
MANIFEST

HEAVEN MOVES, PURE SILENCE HE;..... EARTH RESTS BENEATH THE  
STRAIN; SHUTTLE AND LOOM, AS WORD AND WOMB,..... THEIR  
MYSTERY SUSTAIN

PURE MOTION MAKETH REST..... AS SILENCE MAKETH STRESS. IF MAN  
WERE STILL, THEN HEAVEN SHOULD THRILL..... WITH EARTH TO  
NOTHINGNESS.

SELF LOVETH SILENCE. YEA,..... BUT MIND DISTRACTETH IT. MIND  
LOVETH REST; BUT PASSION'S PEST..... ALLURES THE TREMBLING WIT.

IF MAN RESTRAIN DESIRE,..... HIS MIND WILL CEASE TO ROLL, AND  
MIND'S RELEASE ALLOW PURE PEACE..... OF SILENCE TO THE SOUL.

THE SENSES WILL NOT SOIL;..... THE THOUGHT WILL NOT  
UPSTRESS; NOR POISONS (GREED, WRATH, DULNESS) BREED..... THEIR  
TRIFORM DEADLINESS.

MEN EARN NOT EASE OF TAO..... FOR THEIR DESIRE'S  
DISEASE; BECAUSE THEIR MIND IS NOT REFINED..... OF THOUGHT BY  
KILLING THESE.

IF ONE SHOULD SLAY DESIRES,..... HIS MIND AND BODY SEEM NO  
LONGER HIS, BUT PHANTASIES..... DANCED IN A WANTON'S DREAM.  
SLAY MIND, SLAY BODY, SLAY..... THE EXTERNAL: MATTER GOES. THEN  
SPACE REMAINS; RENEW THY PAINS!..... UP! FRONT THE FINAL FOES!

## II

LAO KUN THE MASTER SAID:..... THE ADEPT IN SKILL OF SOULHATH  
NEVER AN AIM: THE BUNGLERS SHAME..... IS THAT HE GROVES A  
GOAL.

WHO MOST POSSESS THE TEH..... CONCEAL THEIR MAGICK  
POWER; WHO LEAST POSSESS EXERT THEIR STRENGTH..... SEVEN TIMES  
IN EVERY HOUR.

THESE, WHO CLING FAST TO POWERS,..... WHO GUARD THEM, AND  
DISPLAY THEIR MAGICK ART - THEY ARE NOT PART..... OF TAO NOR  
YET OF TEH.

MEN WIN NOT TRUTH OF TAO..... BECAUSE THEIR MINDS ARE  
WRIED. THE MIND UNCURBED, THE SELF'S PERTURBED,..... AND LOSES  
TUNE OF TIDE.

LOST, THE EXTERNAL LURES;..... THEY TURN TO SEEK IT: THEN ALL  
THINGS PERPLEX, CONFUSE, AND VEX..... THOSE MISERABLE MEN.

DISORDERED THOUGHTS ARISE;..... BODY AND MIND GROW  
SICK. DISGRACE AND FEAR GROW YEAR BY YEAR..... TO THEIR  
CLIMACTERIC.

WILD, THEY ARE TOSSED ABOUT..... THROUGH LIFE AND DEATH; THEY  
QUIVER, SUNK IN SEA-STRESS OF BITTERNESS,..... AND LOSE THE TAO  
FOR EVER.

THE TRUE, THE ABIDING TAO!..... WHO UNDERSTANDETH HATH; WHO  
HATH THE TAO IS HERE AND NOW..... IN SILENCE OF THE PATH  
SLAY SPACE; THEN NAUGHT ABIDES..... HOLD NOT THY HOLY  
HAND! WHEN NAUGHT GIVES BACK BEFORE THE ATTACK,..... SERENE  
THY SILENCE STAND!

ALL'S REST, DEVOID OF MARK;..... HOW SHOULD DESIRES FIX  
TOOTH? WHEN THEY ARE PAST, THOU SURELY HAST..... THE SILENCE  
OF THE TRUTH.

FLAWLESS THAT TRUTH AND FIXED,..... YET APT TO EACH  
APPEAL NATURE AND SENSE TO INFLUENCE -..... THE MAGNET TO THE  
STEEL!

OH! THIS TRUE TOUCH WITH ALL..... ELASTIC AND EXACT THAT YET  
ABOVE THEIR TIDES -..... THE SILENCE FREE FROM ACT!

HE THAT HATH THIS SHALL COME..... LITTLE BY LITTLE, A BREATH, SO  
FLOWETH HE NOW, TO TRUTH OF TAO,..... WHEREIN HE VANISHETH.

MEN STYLE HIM LORD OF TAO,..... YET HE HATH NONE TO LORD.HID  
MOTIVE HE OF ALL THAT BE:..... ENOUGH FOR HIS REWARD!  
HE THAT CAN COMPREHEND..... THIS DOCTRINE MAY TRANSMITTHIS  
SACRED TAO TO MEN THAT VOW.....THEMSELVES TO FATHOM IT.