

LIBER XXI

KHING KANG KING

THE CLASSIC OF PURITY

first written down by me

KO YUEN

(LAO-TZU)

In the Episode of the Dynasty of Wu and now made into a Rime by me

ALEISTER CROWLEY

A.' A.'.

PUBLICATION IN CLASS B

Imprimatur: O.S.V. 6 Degree = 5 Square 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!

SLAY SPACE; THEN NAUGHT ABIDES.  
HOLD NOT THINE 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 WILL ALL  
ELASTIC AND EXACT  
THAT YET ABIDES ABOVE THEIR TIDES –  
THE SILENCE FREE FROM ACT!

HE THAT HATH THIS SHALL COME  
LITTLE BY LITTLE, A BREATH,  
SO FLOETH 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 TRANSMIT  
THIS SACRED TAO TO MEN THAT VOW  
THEMSELVES TO FATHOM IT.

## II

LAO KUN THE MASTER SAID:  
THE ADEPT IN SKILL OF SOUL  
HATH NEVER AN AIM: THE BUNGLER'S SHAME  
IS THAT HE GROPE A GOAL.

WHO MOST POSSESS THE THE  
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