

The Tao that can be told  
is not the eternal Tao.  
The name that can be named  
is not the eternal Name.

The unnamable is the eternally real.  
Naming is the origin  
of all particular things.

Free from desire you realize the mystery.  
Caught in desire, you see only the manifestations.

Yet mystery and manifestations  
arise from the same source.  
This source is called darkness.

Darkness within darkness.  
The gateway to all understanding.

*This source is called darkness:* Because none of our senses can perceive it. It is also called “light,” because the less we obstruct it, the more radiant we are.

*The gateway to all understanding:* In order to understand, we have to remain in the darkness of not-knowing.