

WISDOM. Wisdom is an analytical development in individuals who process insights into life in combination with their comprehension of their own mortality - thus wisdom is predominantly (but not exclusively) found in persons of advanced age.*
Wisdom is the application of experience, knowledge, integrity and spirituality. Wisdom is much valued in society and is used to solve problems - wise people are asked for guidance in the understanding it will be unbiased, sincere and to the point.

** In Eastern beliefs, where one's life is largely determined by karma, young people's wisdom was accumulated during previous lives.***

The Buddha said a wise person does actions that are unpleasant and give good results - but not pleasant actions that give bad results.

Confucius said wisdom can be gained through three methods: Reflection, the noblest. Imitation, the easiest. Experience, the hardest.

This is chapter LXXXI (81) - the conclusion to the Tao Te Ching: "Truthful Words are not beautiful; beautiful words are not truthful.

*"Good words are not persuasive; persuasive words are not good. "One who knows does not speak; one who speaks does not know.****

"The sage does not hoard. Having bestowed all he has on others, he has yet more; having given all to others, he is richer still.

"The way of heaven benefits and does not harm; the way of the sage is bountiful and does not contend." Tao Te Ching - book 2/194-6

**** This citation is from chapter LVI (56); the original line 194 in chapter LXXXI (81) is: "He who knows has no wide learning; he who has wide learning does not know."*

I don't like that verse since I deem wide learning desirable - thus I don't use it and instead insert the one I prefer: "One who knows does not speak; one who speaks does not know".

The Tao Te Ching I am using is the 1963 translation by D. C. Lau (Emeritus Professor of Chinese Language & Literature at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.)

*D.C. Lau's translation is available at:
www.centertao.org/tao-te-ching/dc-lau*

I now question what I did on this page, and I wonder if my idea of swapping the verses of the Tao Te Ching is sound. I still find wide learning desirable ...

... but as I read Krishnamurti's Freedom From The Known, I realise some learning, some knowledge may lead to biases which then could hinder my spiritual progress.

Hesse's Siddhartha says, when asked who his greatest teacher was: "The ferryman Vasudeva; he was a simple man, no thinker, a perfect man, a saint." Albeit a man without wide learning.

*** An example of a young person deemed wise beyond his age is Jiddu Krishnamurti, to whom the influential essay At The Feet Of The Master is attributed, written when he was 14 years old.*

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