



## From Wonder into Wonder, Existence Opens, by Lao Tzu

What we look for beyond seeing  
And call the unseen,  
Listen for beyond hearing  
And call the unheard,  
Grasp for beyond reaching  
And call the withheld,  
Merge beyond understanding  
In a oneness  
Which does not merely give rise and give light,  
Does not merely set and leave darkness,  
But forever sends forth a succession of living things as mysterious  
As the unbegotten existence to which they return.  
That is why men have called them empty phenomena,  
Meaningless images,  
In a mirage  
With no face to meet,  
No back to follow.  
Yet one who is anciently aware of existence  
Is master of every moment,  
Feels no break since beyond time  
In the way life flows. ---- Existence is beyond the power of words  
To define:  
Terms may be used  
But are none of them absolute.  
In the beginning of heaven and earth there were no words,  
Words came out of the womb of matter;  
And whether a man dispassionately  
Sees to the core of life  
Or passionately  
Sees the surface,  
The core and the surface  
Are essentially the same,  
Words make them seem different  
Only to express appearance.  
If name be needed, wonder names them both:  
From wonder into wonder  
Existence opens. --Lao Tzu (Translator: Witter Bynner)