

PSYCHEDELIC PRAYERS

after the

TAO TE CHING

by

Timothy Leary

"...But that crucial non-game terror-reverence awful moment comes...
There comes a time when the ecstatic cry is called for.
At that time, you must be ready to pray.
To go beyond yourself. To contact energy beyond your game.
At that time you must be ready to pray.
When you have lost the need to pray....
You are a dead man in a world of dead symbols.
Pray for life.
Pray for life."

-Timothy Leary

Kumaon Hills,
Almora, India, 1965
Millbrook, New York, 1966

I

PRAYERS FOR PREPARATION

HOMAGE TO LAO TSE

I – 1 The Guide

I – 2 When The Harmony Is Lost

I – 3 Life Seed Death

I – 4 Let There Be Simple Natural Things

I – 5 All Things Pass

I – 6 The message Of Posture

I – 1

The Guide

In the greatest sessions
One does not know that
there is a guide

In the next best sessions
One praises the guide

It is worse when
One fears the guide

The worst is that
One pays him

If the guide lacks trust
in the people

Then
The trust of the people
will be lacking

The wise guide guards his words
The wise guide sits serenely

When the greatest session is over
The people will say—

"It all happened naturally"

or

"It was so simple, we did it
all ourselves."

I – 2

When The Harmony Is Lost

When the harmony is lost

Then come the clever discussions and
"Wise men" appear
When the unity is lost

Then come "friends"

When the session is plunged
into disorder

Then there are "doctors"

I – 3

L S D

(life light love, seed sun son, death daughter dna)

Hold in reverence
This great Symbol of Transformation
And the whole world comes to you

Comes to you without harm, and
Dwells in commonwealth
Dwells in the union of heaven and earth

Offer music.....
Food.....
Wine.....
And the passing guest will stay for a while

But the molecular message
In its passage through the mouth
Is without flavor

It cannot be seen
It cannot be heard
It cannot be exhausted by use

It remains

I – 4

Let There Be Simple Natural Things During The Session

Let there be simple, Natural things
To contact during the sessions –

hand woven cloth
uncarved wood
flowers – growing things
ancient music
burning fire
a touch of earth
a splash of water

fruit, good bread, cheese
fermenting wine
candles
temple incense
a warm hand
fish swimming
anything which is over
five hundred years old

Of course it is always best to be
secluded with nature

I – 5

All Things Pass

All things pass

A sunrise does not last all morning

All things pass

A cloudburst does not last all day

All things pass

Nor a sunset all night

All things pass

What always changes?

Earth...Sky...thunder...
Mountain...water...
wind...fire lake...

These change

And if these do not last

Do man's vision's last?
Do man's illusions?

During the session
Take things as they come

All things pass

I – 6

The Message Of Posture

During the session

Observe your body
Mandala of the universe
Observe your body
Of ancient design
Holy temple of consciousness
Central stage of the oldest drama

Observe its structured wonders

skin
hair
tissue
bone
vein
muscle
net of nerve

Observe its message

Does it merge or does it strain?
Does it rest serene on sacred ground?
Or tilt, propped up by wire and sticks?

On tiptoe one cannot stand for long
Tension retards the flow

Of the session it is said–

Superfluous noise and redundant action

Stand out–

square, proud, cramped

Against the harmony

Observe the mandala of your body

Part II

THE EXPERIENCE OF ELEMENTAL ENERGY

HOMAGE TO THE ATOM

II – 1 That Which Is Called The Tao

II – 2 Ethereal Pool

II – 3 Jewelled Indifference

II – 4 Falling Free

II – 5 Sheathing the Self

II – 6 Manifestation of the Mystery

II – 7 Please Do Not Clutch at the Gossamer Web

II – 1

That Which Is Called The Tao Is Not The Tao

The flow of energy.....

Here.....

It.....

Is.....

Nameless.....

Timeless.....

Speed of light.....

Float.....beyond fear.....

Float.....beyond desire.....

Into.....this Mystery of Mysteries
through this Gate.....of All Wonder

II – 2

Ethereal Pool Without Source

Empty bowl of radiance...
Full of universe and star...

Silent.....void
Shimmering...
Ancestor of all things....

Here...

All sharpness.....rounded
All wheels.....glide along.....soft
tracks of light

ethereal pool without source

Preface to life

II – 3

Jewelled Indifference

Galactic play

Belted radiance

Lethal spectrum

Restless diamond eye

Solar

So long

So long?

Jewelled Indifference

where's home?

Jewelled Indifference

where am I?

Jewelled Indifference

I want.....to go back

Jewelled Indifference

Help! I don't understand

Jewelled Indifference

Is it all a dream?

Jewelled Indifference

WARNING!

SOLAR SHUTTERS OPENING
LETHAL LOVE RADIATION BEWARE
FATAL UNITY WARNING BLISS FUSION

All right. Who's next?

Good bye now
Glide into fusion
Relentless diamond eye

"The sound man faces the passing
of human generations immune as to
a sacrifice of straw dogs"

There.....we.....go

Good.....

Bye

II – 4

Falling Free

The law of Gravity.....Falling Free
Falling Free.....the root of lightness

Repose.....is the root of movement
Stillness.....the master of agitation

Gravity isFalling Free

II – 5

Sheathing The Self

The play of energy endures
Beyond striving

The play of energy endures
Beyond body

The play of energy endures
Beyond life

Out here
Float timeless

Beyond striving

II – 6

The Manifestation Of the Mystery

Gazing, we do not see it

we call it empty space

Listening, we do not hear it

we call it silence or noise

Groping, we do not grasp it

we call it intangible

But here.....
we.....spin through it

Electric, silent, subtle

II – 7

Please Do Not Clutch At The Gossamer Web

All in heaven
and
on earth below
Is a crystal fabric
Delicate sacred gossamer web

Grabbing hands shatter it
Watch closely this shimmering

mosaic

Silent.....
Glide in
Harmony

Part III

THE EXPERIENCE OF BIOLOGICAL (SEED-CELL) ENERGY

HOMAGE TO DNA

III – 1 The Serpent Coil of DNA

III – 2 Prehistoric Origin of DNA

III – 3 Clear Water

III – 4 Returning to the Source

III – 5 Lao Tse's Mind

III – 6 Transfiguration Exercise

III – 7 Tree Above-Tree Below

III – 8 Fourfold Representation

III – 9 The Seed Light

III –10 This Is It

III –11 Gate of the Soft Mystery

III –12 The Lesson of Seed

III – 1

The Serpent Coil Of DNA

We meet it everywhere

But we do not see its front

We follow it everywhere

But we do not see its back

When we embrace this ancient serpent coil
We are masters of the moment
And we feel no break in the
Curling back to primeval beginnings

This may be called
Unraveling the clue of the life process

III – 2

Prehistoric Origins Of DNA

Its rising is not bright

nor its setting dark

Unceasing, continuous
Branching out in roots innumerable
Forever sending forth the serpent coil

of living things

Mysterious as the formless existence

to which it returns

Twisting back
Beyond mind

We say only that it is form from the formless
Life from spiral void

III – 3

Clear Water

The seed of mystery
Lies in muddy water

How can we fathom this muddiness?

Water becomes still through stillness

How can we become still?

By moving with the stream

III – 4

Returning To The Source – Repose

Be empty
Watch quietly while the ten thousand forms
swim into life and return to the source

Do nothing
Return to the source

Deep repose is the sign
That you have reached
The appointed goal

To return to the source is to
discover the eternal law of seed

He who returns to this eternal law is enlightened
Being enlightened he is serene
Being serene he is open-hearted
Being open-hearted he is beyond social games
Being beyond social games he is in tune with seed
Being in tune with seed he endures

Until the end of his life he is not in peril

III – 5

Lao Tse's Mind Becomes Pre-occupied With A Very Difficult Subject To Describe The Production Of Material Forms By The Tao

Is it a dream?

Shadowy

Elusive

Invisible

All things, all images move slowly
Within shimmering nets

Here essence endures
From here all forms emerge

All forms emerge from this second
Back to the ancient beginning

Transfiguration Exercise

Transfiguration

What was inert.....moves
What was dead.....Lives
What was drab.....radiates

Galactic time has labored to produce
this moment—exquisite

See how each part joins the whole
The ancient saying that the isolated part
becomes whole was spoken wisely

Seed flows

All forms glow

Remain quiet

Pulsate
In
Harmony

III – 7

The Tree Above–The Tree Below

What is above is below
What is without is within
What is to come is in the past

Tall...deep...tree...green...branching...leaf
Root...above...below...thrusting...coiling
Sky...earth...stem...root
Soil...air
Seed
Soil...visible
Hidden...breathing...sucking
Bud...ooze...sun...damp
Light...dark...bright...decay...laugh
Tear...vein...rain...mud...branch...root

What is above is below
What is without is within
What is to come is in the past

These wooden carvings displayed in her endless shelves
Await–
Within each uncut branch–
The carver's knife

III – 8

Fourfold Representation Of The Mystery

Before Heaven and Earth
There was something
nebulous....
Tranquil....effortless

Permeating universally
Never tiring

Revolving Soundless
Fusion without mate

It may be regarded as the mother
of all organic forms

Its name is not known nor its language
But it is called the name TAO

The ancient sages to the best of their ability
inventing a description called it "great"

The great TAO

"Great" means—in harmony
In harmony means—tuned in
Tuned in means....going far
Going far means....return
To the harmony

Thus—there are four greatnesses....

The TAO is great

The coil of life is great

The body is great

And man is also designed in this image to be great

There are in existence four great notes
And man is made to be one thereof

Man places himself in harmony with his body
His body tunes itself to the slow unfolding of life
Life flows in harmony with the TAO

Out here you will know that it
all proceeds at the natural tempo

In tune

III – 9

The Seed Light

The seed light shines everywhere, left and right

All forms derive life from it

When the bodies are created it does not take
possession

It clothes and feeds the ten thousand things

And does not disturb their illusions

Magical helix...smallest form and
mother of all forms

The living are born, Flourish and disappear

Without knowing their seed creator
Helix of light

In all nature it is true that the wiser, the oldest
and the greater resides in the smaller

III – 10

This Is It

The seed moves so slowly and serenely

Moment to moment

That it appears inactive

The garden at sunrise breathing

The quiet breath of twilight

Moment to moment to moment

When man is in tune with this blissful rhythm

The ten thousand forms flourish

Without effort

Really!

It is all so simple

Each next moment.....

This is it!

III – 11

Gate Of The Soft Mystery

Valley of life

Gate of the Soft Mystery

Beginnings in the lowest place

Gate of the Soft Mystery

Gate of the Dark Woman

Gate of the Soft Mystery

Seed of all living

Gate of the Soft Mystery

Constantly enduring

gate of the Soft mystery

Use her gently and

Without the touch of pain

III – 12

The Lesson Of Seed

The soft overcomes the hard
The small overcomes the large
The gentle survives the strong
The invisible survives the visible

Fish should be left in the deep water
Fire and iron should be kept under ground
seed should be left free to grow.....

in.....

The rhythm of life

Part IV

THE EXPERIENCE OF NEURAL ENERGY (EXTROCEPTIVE)

HOMAGE TO THE EXTERNAL SENSE ORGANS

IV – 1 The retinal Cakra

IV – 2 The Auditory Cakra

IV – 3 The Touch Cakra

IV – 4 The Smell Cakra

IV – 5 The Taste Cakra

IV – 1

The Retinal Cakra

Open naked eye
Ayeee!
Light....radiant...pulsating...
"I've been blind all my life to this radiance."
Retinal mandala
Swamp mosaic of rods and cones
Light rays hurtle into retina at 186,000 miles a second
My cross scope
Tell a scope
Retinal scripture

THE BLIND MAN'S EYE

recoils at relentless invasion of glittering energy
impersonal bewitched shimmering
mocking, mocking, meye illusions of control
"Too bright! Turn it off! Bring back familiar

gray world of shadow form."

THE SEE-ER EYE

vibrates to the trembling web of light
` merges with the seen
merges with the scene
slides smiling down retinal whirlpool
slides smiling through central needle point

IV – 2

The Auditory Cakra

Uncover lotus membrane
Sound waves sound waves sound waves
Tremble tattoo of impulse
Sympatonic vibrations
Float along liquid-filled canals
THE SINGLE NOTE OF BACH PIANO
BBBBBBBBIIIIIIINNNNNNNNGGGGGGGG

collides
trembling meteor of delight
with quivering membrane
fuse
spin
slowly
round eternal note
along network ear tone
down vibration thread
who ear
you are
vibration... string of wire... finger of soloist

IV – 3

The Touch Cakra

Extend your
Free nerve endings
Trembling
Fine tendrils
Wove in skin
Fell my finger touch
Soft landing on your creviced surface
Send sense balloon drifting up
through fifty miles of
Spindle-web skin tissue atmosphere
Electric thrill contact
Soar free through million mile blue epidermal space
Of cotton candy
Fragile web of nerve wire
Shuddering fleece of breathless pleasure

IV – 4

The Smell Cakra

Sensory landscape
Air-web of smell code
Tangle of odor
Ticker-tape belts treaming
Breath draught elixir of life
Across the room from you sits a woman

steaming
earthy smell of feet
musk of glands
sexual perfume
soap shampoo reeling
heady mixture of food and drink
exhausts and wastes from internal factories
glide out on bands of volatile gas
merge with her

IV – 5

The Taste Cakra

The thin sheath of plexiglass covering your tongue

Is melting

Spongy meadows of red tissue

Stripped raw open

Quivering furrows of barrel bud bombs

Part V

THE EXPERIENCE OF NEURAL ENERGY (INTROCEPTIVE)

HOMAGE TO THE VISCERAL SENSE ORGANS

V – 1 The Eliminative Cakra

V – 2 The Sex Cakra

V – 3 The Heart Cakra

V – 4 The Air Cakra

V – 5 The Crown Cakra

V – 6 Brief Review of Visceral Cakras

V – 7 Hold Fast to the Void

V – 8 Take In–Let Go

V – 1

The Eliminative Cakra

Yellow–brown

Can you float through the universe of your body

and not lose your way?

Can you dissolve softly? Decompose?

Can you rest

dormant seed–light

blurred in moist earth?

Can you drift
single-celled
in soft tissue swamp?

Can you sink
into your dark
fertile marsh?

Can you dissolve softly? Decompose?
Can you slowly spiral down the great central drain?
Yellow brown

V – 2

The Sex Cakra

Rainbow
Can you float through the universe of your body
and not lose your way?

Can you lie quietly
engulfed
in the slippery union
of male and female?
Warm wet dance of generations?
Endless ecstasies of couples?

Can you offer your stamen trembling in the meadow
for the electric penetration of pollen
While birds sing?

Writhe together on the river bank
While birds sing?

Wait soft-feathered, quivering, in the thicket

While birds sing?

Can you coil serpentine

While birds sing?

Become two cells merging?
Slide together in molecule embrace?

Can you, murmuring,

Lose

All

Fusing

Rainbow

V – 3

The Heart Cakra

Scarlet

Can you float....

through the universe of your body...

.

And not lose your way....?

Can you flow....

with fire blood...

Through each tissue corridor....?

Throb....

To the pulse of life....?

Can you let your heart.....

pump you.....

down long red tunnels....?

Radiate...swell...penetrate...

to the bumpy rhythm?

Can you stream....
Into cell chambers....?
Can you center....
On this heart fire of love....?
Can you let your heart....
Become central pump-house....

For all human feeling?
Pulse for all love?
Beat for all sorrow?
Throb for all pain?
Thud for all joy?

Can you let it....
Beat for all mankind?
Burst...bleed out...into warm compassion
Flowing...flowing...pulsing...

out...out...out?

Bleed to death
Life...
Blood
Scarlet

V – 4

The Air Cakra

Azure blue
Can you float through the universe of your body and not lose your way?
Breathing
Breathing
Can you drift into free air?
Breathing
Breath of life
Aetherial bliss
Inspiration
Can you rise on the trembling vibration

of inhale.....exhale?

Breathing.....breathing
Breath of life
Can you ascend the fragile thread of life

into cloud-blue bliss?

Can you spiral up through soft atmosphere
Breathing.....breathing
Catch that exact second between in-breath and out-breath
Just there.....
Can you float beyond life and death?
Azure blue
At that exact second
Now

V – 5

The Crown Cakra

Light
Can you float...
Through the universe of your body ...
And not lose your way....?
Can you focus...in your spinal column...the energy from

every center in your body?

----earth seed
----sexual fusion
----heart's fire
----breath rising
----retinal glitter
----sound vibrating
----touch quiver
----volatile gas
----tongue's explosion

Now....
Pull these sensory streams into your brain

Turn on the billion-celled diamond network
Light....light....light....
Incandescence
Solar flare
From every cell in your body
Energy hurtles
Light....life....love....luminous
Into the thousand petalled lotus
of light

V – 6

Brief Review Of The Visceral Cakras

Breathing.....
Drift, drift along your body's soft
swampland while warm yellow mud sucks lazily

Breathing.....
Feel each cell in your body intertwine,
merging in wet rainbow serpent-coil grasping orgasm

Breathing.....
Feel the thudding motor of time
pulsing life along the red network

Breathe.....
Gently, until you are as warm and soft
as an infant

Breathing.....
Bring fire blood flowing into

the white rooms of your brain

Breathing.....
Radiate golden light into the
four corners of creation

V – 7

Hold Fast To The Void

Breathing.....
Notice how this space out here
Between heaven and earth
Is like a bellows

Breathing.....
Always full, always empty
Always full, always empty

Breathing.....
Come in here, go out there
Come in here, go out there

Breathing.....
Silence

Breathing.....
This is no time for talk
Better to hold fast to the void

Breathing

V – 8

Take In – Let Go

To breathe in
You must first breathe out
Let go

To hold
You must first open your hand
Let go

To be warm
You must first be naked
Let go

Part VI

RE-ENTRY: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE IMPRINTED WORLD

HOMAGE TO THE SYMBOLIC MIND

- VI – 1 The Moment of Fullness**
- VI – 2 How to Escape the Trap of Beauty and Goodness**
- VI – 3 For God's Sake-Feel Good**
- VI – 4 Re-Imprinting Using Water As Element**
- VI – 5 The Lesson of Water**
- VI – 6 The Utility of nothing**
- VI – 7 The Innocence of the Sensual**
- VI – 8 What the brain Said to the Mind**
- VI – 9 How to Recognize the TAO Imprint**
- VI –10 Illustration of a TAO Imprint**
- VI –11 Keep In Touch**
- VI –12 Use Your Knowledge of Nature's Law**
- VI –13 The Conscious Application of Strength**
- VI –14 Victory Celebration**
- VI –15 Along the Grain**
- VI –16 He Who Knows the Center Endures**
- VI –17 Walk Carefully When You Are Among....**

VI – 1

The Moment Of Fullness

Grab hold tightly
Let go lightly

The full cup can take no more
The candle burns down
The taut bow must be loosed

The razor edge cannot long endure

Not this moment re-lived

So..... now
Grab hold tightly
Now.....
Let go lightly

VI – 2

How To Escape The Trap Of Beauty And goodness

As you return

Remember

Choose beauty..... so you define ugly
Select good, so you create evil
As you choose your joy, so you design your sorrow

The coin you are now imprinting has two sides

Better to return in the flow of Tao

For indeed

The opposites exist for you alone
Beyond your heads and tails
Dances the unity

All sounds harmonize
All games end in a tie

Your God stands on the pitcher's mound and

nods to his catcher and winds up and
throws a shoulder-high fast ball

POP!

Right into your Devil's glove.

VI – 3

For God's Sake – Feel Good

As you return

Remember to choose consciously

Power is the heavy stone wrenched

from your garden of tenderness

Virtue is the heavy stone crushing your innocence

What can be learned
From nature is
Harmony

Therefore—

Shun the social
Cuddle the elemental
Avoid angles, lie with the round
Shun plastic, conspire with the seed

Do no good
But
For God's sake
Feel good

And

Nature's order will prevail

VI – 4

Re-Imprinting Using Water As Element

Remember

The flow of water

Live—at the natural level

Fluid

Live—close to the earth

Fluid

Live—giving life

Fluid

Live—falling free

Fluid

Live—in the stream

Fluid

VI – 5

The Lesson Of Water

What one values in the game–

is the play
Fluid

What one values in the form–

is the moment of forming
Fluid

What one values in the house–

is the moment of dwelling
Fluid

What one values in the heart–

is the beat
Pulsing

What one values in the action–

is the timing
Fluid

Indeed

Because you flow like water
You can neither win nor lose

VI – 6

The Utility Of Nothing

the nothing at the center of the

thirty spoke wheel....

.

the nothing of the clay vase.....

The nothing within the four walls.....

The goal of the game is to go beyond the game

You lose your mind

To use your head

You lose your mind

To use your head

VI – 7

The Innocence Of The Sensual

Name the five colors–

shadow the eye

Name the eight notes–

muffle the ear

Name the five tastes—

coat the tongue

Naming stops the flow

Win the game, lose the play

Let a child's innocence

feed your hungers

VI – 8

What The Brain Said To The Mind

'One to me is fame and shame

One to me is loss and gain

One to me is pleasure and pain"

murmured the brain

(looking down with compassionate

curiosity.....

As

A beautiful woman idly
inspects a tiny blemish
on her long smooth flank.....

Looking down with compassionate
curiosity

At the small imprinted chess board
of the mind's external game)

'One to me is fame and shame

One to me is loss and gain

One to me is pleasure and pain"

said the brain

VI – 9

How To Recognize The Tao Imprint

He who returns in the flow of TAO
Brings back a mysterious penetration
So subtle
That it is misunderstood

Here is his appearance

Hesitant like one who wades in
a stream at winter
Wary as a man in ambush
Considerate as a welcome guest
Fluid like a mountain stream
Natural as uncarved wood
Floating high like a gull
Unfathomable like muddy water

How can we fathom this muddiness?

Water becomes clear through stillness

How can we become still?
By moving with the stream

VI – 10

Illustration Of A Tao Imprint

He stands apart

Serene
Curiously observing

He stands quietly

Looking forlorn
Like an infant who has not yet
learned to know what to smile at

He is a little sad for what he sees

While others enjoy their possessions

he lazily drifts, a homeless
do-nothing, owning nothing

Or he moves slowly close to the land

While others are crisp and definite

he seems to be indecisive

He does not seem to be making his way

in the world

He is different
A wise infant nursing at the breast
of all life

Inside

VI – 11

Keep In Touch

The TAO flows everywhere

Keep in touch
And be at home
Everywhere

He who loses the contact is alone
Everywhere

Keeping in touch with the TAO
Is called
Harmony

VI – 12

Use Your Knowledge Of Nature's Law

Nature's way is to leave no residue
All is absorbed

Therefore we treasure the "least of men"

All belongs
All is salvaged
Nothing is rejected
This is called stealing the light.....
Nature's subtle secret

VI – 13

The Conscious Application Of Strength

Force recoils

But

The time comes when there is

nothing to do

Except act consciously

With courage

VI – 14

Victory Celebration

Celebrate your victory

with funeral rites
for your slain illusions

Wear some black at your wedding

VI – 15

Along The Grain

The Tao is nameless
Like uncarved wood

As soon as it is carved
Then there are names

Carve carefully
And
Along the grain

VI – 16

He Who Knows The Center Endures

He who knows the outside is clever

He ex-cells life less

He who knows the center endures

He lives in-light end

He who masters, gains robot strength

He over-powers

He who comes to the center has

flowering strength
He is in-formed

Faith of consciousness is freedom
Hope of consciousness is strength
Love of consciousness evokes the same in return
Faith of seed frees
Hope of seed flowers
Love of seed grows

VI – 17

Walk Carefully When You Are Among

"holy men" and
"righteous" deeds
Distract from the internal

"Learned men"
Distract from
Natural wisdom

Professional know-how
Addicts people to the contrived
And the external

Be respectful and compassionate
But walk carefully when you are among-

learned men
holy men
doctors
government officials
reporters
publishers
professors
religious leaders
psychologists
rich men

social scientists
women with beautiful faces
artists and writers
men who
charge fees
city men
movie makers
men who want to help you
men who want you to help them
Christians and Jews

For such as these
However well meaning
Place you on their chessboard
Addict you to their externals
Distract you from the
TAO within

The lesson of the TAO is more likely to be found among—

gardeners
hermits
mountain men
smiling eccentrics
men who build their own homes
children
parents who learn from their children
loafers
amateur musicians
serene Psychotics
animals
men who look at sunsets
men who walk in the woods
beautiful women
cooks
men who sit by the fire
wanderers
men who make bread
couples who have been in love for years
unemployed men
smiling men with bad reputations