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*Huángdì yīnfú jīng* 黃帝陰符經

(YELLOW THEARCH'S SCRIPTURE ON THE HIDDEN TALISMAN;  
DZ 31; ABBREV. *YĪNFÚ JĪNG*)

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**UPPER SECTION:  
EXTENSIVE WAY OF SPIRIT IMMORTALITY AND EMBRACING THE ONE**

Observe the Way of Heaven,  
Attend to the activities of heaven,  
Until complete fulfillment.

Heaven has Five Thieves;  
One who perceives this prospers.

The Five Thieves are in the heart-mind.  
They extend to and even affect heaven.

The canopy of space and time is in your hands.  
Ten thousand transformations arise from your body.

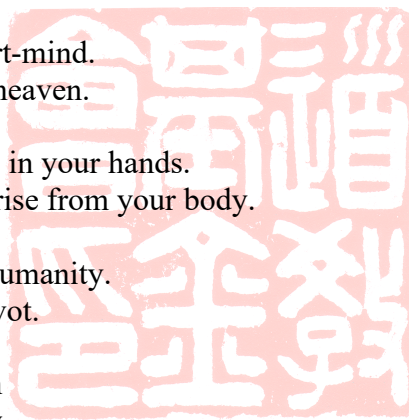
The innate nature of heaven is humanity.  
The human heart-mind is the pivot.

Establishing the Way of Heaven  
Enables the settling of humanity.

When heaven manifests killing power,  
It moves the stars and shifts the constellations.  
When earth manifests killing power,  
Dragons and snakes continually emerge.  
When humans manifest killing power,  
Heaven and earth are overturned.  
When heaven and humanity join and manifest,  
The ten thousand transformations have a stable base.

There are ingenious and awkward natures—  
They can be subdued and concealed.

The aberrations of the Nine Cavities  
Are in the Three Essentials;  
They can be aroused or stilled.



When fire arises from wood,  
Calamity manifests with certain destruction.  
When treachery arises in the country,  
Time moves with certain destruction.  
Those who know this practice cultivation-refinement;  
We call such people sages.

**MIDDLE SECTION:  
EXTENSIVE METHOD FOR ENRICHING THE COUNTRY AND PACIFYING THE  
PEOPLE**

[1b] Heaven gives life; heaven takes life away—  
This is the principle of the Dao.

Heaven and earth steal from the ten thousand beings;  
The ten thousand beings steal from humanity;  
Humanity steals from the ten thousand beings.  
When the Three Bandits are correctly ordered,  
The Three Powers are then at peace.

Therefore it is said,  
    Eat at the appropriate times,  
    And the hundred bones will be regulated.  
    Move in accordance with the pivot,  
    And the ten thousand transformations will be at peace.

People know the spiritual as spiritual,  
But they do not know the non-spiritual as spiritual.

The sun and moon have calculations;  
Large and small have limitations.  
The efficacy of sages is born there;  
Spiritual illumination emerges there.

If you steal the pivot [of the universe],  
Nothing under heaven can see you, no one can know you.  
When superior people attain this,  
They are able to endure impoverishment.  
When inferior people attain this,  
They are irreverent towards life-destiny.

**LOWER SECTION:  
EXTENSIVE TECHNIQUE FOR STRENGTHENING THE TROOPS AND PREPARING  
FOR BATTLE**

The blind are adept at hearing;  
The deaf are adept at seeing.

Sever your ties to the single source of greed—  
This is ten times better than mobilizing the army.

Practice the Three Reversals day and night—  
This is ten thousand times better than mobilizing the army.

The heart-mind is born from things;  
The heart-mind dies from things.  
The pivot [of the heart-mind] is in the eyes.

Heaven is without kindness,  
But from this great kindness is born.  
With swift thunder and strong wind,  
All beings become active.

The nature of utmost joy is to be in balance;  
The nature of utmost stillness is to be pure.

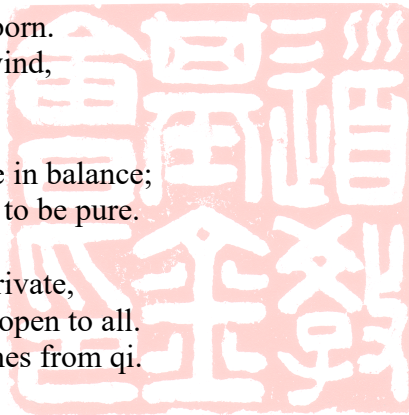
[2a] Heaven is fundamentally private,  
But its application is ultimately open to all.  
The regulation of all beings comes from qi.

Birth is the root of death;  
Death is the root of birth.  
Grace is born from dis-ease;  
Dis-ease is born from grace.

Ignore-ant people consider the patterns and principles of heaven and earth sacred;  
I consider the patterns and principles of the seasons and beings wisdom.

People assume that being ignore-ant is sagely;  
I assume that not being ignore-ant is sagely.  
People believe that being strange is sagely;  
I believe that not being strange is sagely.

Thus, sinking in water and entering fire  
Bring destruction on yourself.



The Dao abides in suchness and stillness;  
Thus, heaven, earth, and the ten thousand beings are born.  
The Way of Heaven and earth enfolds;  
Thus, yin and yang prevail.  
Yin and yang form a reciprocal oscillation,  
And transformations are in complete accord.

Thus, sages know that the Dao in its suchness  
Cannot be avoided or abandoned.  
Following it, they completely grasp it.

The Dao in utmost stillness  
Cannot be recorded by laws or calculations.  
Because of this, the sage has an extraordinary vessel.

This gives birth to the ten thousand forms,  
The eight trigrams, the stems and branches,  
The movement of spirits, and the concealment of ghosts.

**[2b]** The mystery of the mutual alteration of yin and yang  
Clearly progresses beyond form.

