

NINETEEN:

"PITCH away piety and 'know-how',
and your followers will be far, far more contented.
PITCH away heavy morals and forced decency
and your followers attempt the correct path.
THROW away commerce and revenue: and
a good number of pickpockets will begin to fade away."

Perhaps surprisingly, within a Taoist conception of reality, there is no saint, no sinner, no one to be exulted nor no one to be damned.

The *Tao* has no such categories. No one is wholly wise, no one is entirely holy.

As such, all who are in the presence of following the *Tao* are able to make everyone else at ease and enable them to improve.

I love the very dejecting over-zealous capitalist sentiment contained in the phrase which I have translated as:

*THROW away commerce and revenue:
and a good number of pickpockets will begin to fade away.*

We may each interpret this phrase as we see fit.

Perhaps in the end our money-driven society fuels its own crime and misdeeds, and we must all, both rich and poor, face-up to this in the end.