

Preface

功不唐捐, 玉汝于成

No efforts are taken futile, and no jades are made easy.

Introduction

道生一, 一生二, 二生三, 三生萬物

The Way begets oneness, oneness engenders twoness, twoness breeds threeness, and threeness multiplies into all.

Binary Regression

有无相生, 难易相成

Thus in nothingness emerges existence, and out of existence arises nothing.

Polytomous Regression

少則得, 多則惑

Simplicity aids, and multiplicity ails.

Count Regression

善行, 无辙迹; 善言, 无瑕谥; 善数, 不用筹策

Those seasoned with steering leave no impression, those versed in edification commit no misdeed, and those adept at counting use no tally sticks.

Survival Regression

人之生也柔弱, 其死也坚强

From tenderness arises survival, and within demise lurks rigidity.

Extensions

治大國若烹小鮮

To govern a vast expanse is to concoct a simple dish.