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The editors and staff, Prairie Light Review Winter 2003

“If I had the least bit of wisdom
I could follow the path of the Tao quite well
My only fear would be trying to go my own way
The Great Path is simple and direct
Yet people take the side-routes

See how magnificent the courts have become
The women are dressed in colorful gowns
The men carry well-crafted swords
Food and drink overflow
Wealth and finery abound
Yet in the shadow of all this splendor
The fields grow barren
The granaries are empty

I say this pomp at the expense of others
Is like the boasting of thieves after a looting
Surely it is contrary to Tao
Surely it cuts against the grain of the whole empire”

Lao Tzu as translated by Jonathan Star
Tao Te Ching Verse 53