

Discourse

In ancient times, Emperor Yao governed all under Heaven and caused the people to live in carefree ease and radiant contentment, enjoying their days amid the light of Heaven's natural order. The people even sang: "We till the fields and eat, we dig the wells and drink — what has the emperor's power to do with us?" This was truly the scene of the highest.

But by the time of later generations of rulers — today they claim to be planning peace and stability for all under Heaven, tomorrow they claim to be seeking happiness for the hundred families — yet the truth is deception and fraud, nothing more than a cover for people's eyes and ears, a means to seize power and profit. Little do they know that the hundred families are not fooled by their deception. The people will inevitably rise up in opposition, look upon such rulers as enemies, and scorn them as though it were all a joke, until everything is thrown into utter chaos and the state is no longer a state.

Alas! The highest is no longer to be seen. If only we could see even the next-to-lowest kind of ruler — one who makes the people know to fear the law and gives them a legal order to abide by — that alone could bring a measure of temporary peace.

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