

Name _____

Date _____

Handout 7-A

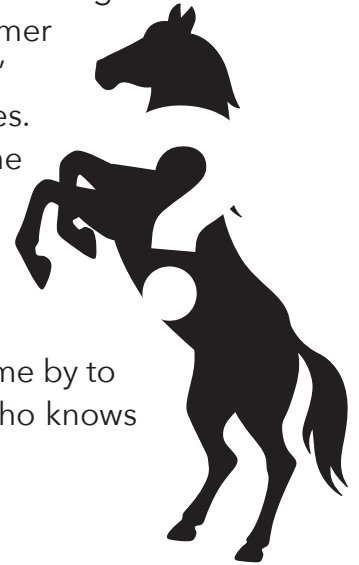
Who Knows What Is Good or Bad?

Once upon a time there was a farmer whose horse ran away. A neighbor came to console him, since it was the farmer's only horse. The farmer replied, "Who knows what is good or bad?"

The next day the horse returned with a herd of wild horses close behind. Hearing the thunderous noise of the horses' hooves, the neighbor returned to the farmer gleefully rejoicing. The farmer only said, "Who knows what is good or bad?"

The third day the farmer's son went into the corral to break one of the horses. But the horse threw the son off so fiercely that the son broke his leg. Again the neighbor came by to give the farmer his condolences. The farmer replied, "Who knows what is good or bad?"

Several months later some government officials came to the property of the farmer seeking to draft his son into the military. However, because of the son's broken leg, his draft was deferred. Once more the neighbor came by to congratulate the farmer on his good fortune. The farmer again replied, "Who knows what is good or bad?"



Discussion Questions

- What is the point of the farmer's words, "Who knows what is good or bad?"
- What does this story say about harmony and balance?
- Describe an experience you had that at first seemed to be bad but turned out to be good.
- Describe an experience you had that at first seemed to be good but turned out to be bad.

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Handout 7-B

>>>> Disharmony vs. Harmony <<<<

If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.
If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.
If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbors.
If there is to be peace between neighbors,
There must be peace in the home.
If there is to be peace in the home,
There must be peace in the heart.

Lao-tzu (6th century BCE)

Discussion Questions

- What are ways in which we see harmony in our home, neighborhood, cities, nations, and the world?
- What are reasons why this harmony does not exist in our home, neighborhood, cities, nations, and the world?
- How can the lessons of Taoism be applied to our world today in order to achieve balance and peace?

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Handout 7-C

Six Stages of a Traditional Chinese Marriage

STAGE	DESCRIPTION
1 Proposal	
2 Engagement	
3 Dowry	
4 Procession	
5 Wedding	
6 Morning After	

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Handout 7-D

Chinese Religious Traditions Word Search

Directions: Test your skills on the vocabulary of traditional Chinese religion by completing this word search. Words can be found horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. Words may be spelled from left to right or right to left, from top to bottom, or from bottom to top. Letters may overlap between two words.



Clues

- contains the sayings of Confucius
- "superior one"
- the attempt to discover what underlies a present situation or what the future holds through the use of spiritual practices like Tarot card reading or the casting of bones
- the art of divining a place or date that has a positive spiritual aura
- non-institutional religious beliefs and practices of a culture or a group of people
- the highest virtue in Confucianism
- authorship of this attributed to Lao-tzu
- action without action
- "shady," the female, dark, negative force in the universe
- "sunny," the male, bright, positive force in the universe