

Guarding the Feminine. Lao Tzu, 28.

Excerpt from letter to Deborah Hughes 1.23.87:

"It is health that guards us from disease, not medicine. 'Guarding the feminine' is on the side of prevention, not cure. The linear model of cause and effect cannot apply here, whereas it is appropriate to 'knowing the masculine.' Your phrase, 'protection before the fact of the stimulus' conflates and confuses the orders of principle and operation. Health (principle) is timeless. Administering cure (operation) is karmic, successive. Feminine energy is vulnerable to the serpent when not complemented by masculine energy. In the story of the Fall (Gen. 2-3) the complementarity is ruptured before the serpent appears (as my paper tries to show) and the feminine is left unguarded. I.e., healthy (whole) receptivity is deprived of its discriminating acceptance of present stimulus. The serpent must appear, but attitude determines whether it will be engaged in a timely or untimely manner. In any case, its

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appearance (that it appears) must be
accepted. To resist accepting that it
appears only strengthens the illusion
of lover-ship. To guard the feminine
is to "do" nothing to prevent health
from obtaining maximally. To be
is to own health in some degree,
however infinitesimal."