

FRST 101: Freshman Studies II Winter 2011
Instructor: Stoneking
Handout #2: ZHUANGZI, BASIC WRITINGS

For Friday's class, finish reading Zhuangzi's *Basic Writings*.

We will spend some time discussing Professor Carr's lecture (send me your lecture response forms before class). In particular I would like to hear your thoughts on the following elements from her handout:

- Skepticism and skeptical agnosticism
- Radical perspectivism

Discussion questions/topics for Friday:

- What, do you think, is (are) the "big" problem(s) or issue(s) that Zhuangzi is addressing (addresses)? Generate a list.
- What are the characteristics of "The Perfect Man" or "The Holy Man" or "the sage"? What are the benefits of attempting to become a Taoist sage?
- How can we understand the nature of "The Way"? Find descriptions and metaphors that help us get a sense of what is meant by this concept.
- Highlight what you think are interesting, amusing, significant stories. What are his readers to learn from these stories? Bring a list of two or three of your favorites.
- Here are some themes to consider as you read the rest (and re-reader the early portions) of Zhuangzi's *Basic Writings*:
 1. Categories and distinctions
 2. Use of the useless
 3. Fame and success
 4. Knowledge and wisdom
 5. Skill
 6. Fate and fortune/misfortune
 7. Emotions: happiness and misery
 8. Virtue