

Just before I graduated high school, an acquaintance knew my interest in Taoism and gave me Chuang Tsu's commentary on Taoism, the Inner Chapters. Since then, I have felt this mild guilt over a passage I didn't agree with but had no answer to. After more than 20 years, I found my answer.

Chuang Tsu writes, "Life has a limit, but knowledge is without limit. For the limited to pursue the unlimited is futile. To know this and still pursue knowledge is even more futile" (Feng & English, 1974, p. 53).

Here's the deal. I don't judge myself by my proximity to omniscience; I don't focus on how much I have to learn; I look at how far I have come and how much I have learned. Today I know more than I did yesterday. Chapter by chapter, lecture by lecture, and course by course I learn more, and when I look back I see how far I've come. A wilderness of my ignorance surrounds me, but my fire of knowledge brightens a little more of the forest each day.

I'm not learning for the sake of learning; I'm learning to solve particular issues I run against. When I found I needed to learn Greek to solve some puzzles, I learned Greek. When I realized I needed to learn economics to solve a problem, I took courses in economics. My life has been much more an organized wandering than the following of a roadmap.

More than ever, at this point in my life, I am curious where this will lead me.

15 April 2014