
Laotzu, as rendered by the poet Witter Bynner, describes this basic and all-important awareness as “the way of the simpleton.” In briefest form the way is:

To care,
To be fair,
To be humble.
When a man cares he is unafraid,
When he is fair he leaves enough for others,
When he is humble he can grow.

In the best sense, it seems to us, genuine and open attentiveness to another is the ultimate effect of caring. As we learn to be fully and patiently attentive to another and to give the best of ourselves in seeking to affirm the deepest in another, we learn to care. As the lines from that chapter of the ancient sage conclude:

The invincible shield of caring
Is a weapon from the sky
Against being dead.

Harry C. Meserve

Erratum

The article by Barbara R. Lorch and Robert H. Hughes, “Religion and Youth Substance Use,” published in the fall 1985 issue, contains a printer’s error in a subheading in Table 4. The correct subheading is:

Rank of Importance of Various
Dimensions of Religion