Quotes from Lao Tzu’s *Tao-te ching*

**Found in the chapter “Dealing with Enemies”**
in Greg Johanson & Ron Kurtz

**Grace Unfolding: Psychotherapy in the Spirit of the Tao-te ching**
(New York: Bell Tower, 1991)

Fine weapons of war augur evil.
Even things seem to hate them.
Therefore, a man of Tao does not set his heart upon them. . . .
As weapons are instruments of evil,
They are not properly a gentleman’s instruments;
Only of necessity will he resort to them.
For peace and quiet are dearest to his heart,
And to him even a victory is no cause for rejoicing.

(Wu, 31)

His enemies are not demons, but human beings like himself.
He doesn’t wish them personal harm. . . .
He enters a battle gravely, with sorrow and with great compassion.

(Mitchell, 31)

Patient with both friends and enemies, you accord with the way things are.

(Mitchell, 67)

Mercy alone can help you to win a war. . . .
For Heaven will come to the rescue of the merciful, and protect him with its Mercy.

(Wu, 67)

To engage in war lightly is to violate my essential teachings of compassion, renunciation, and never longing to be first in the world.
Therefore, when two armies join in battle,
The one that is compassionate wins.

(Chang, 69)

When Tao prevails in the world, evil loses its power.
It is not that evil no longer possesses spiritual power.
It is that its power does not damage men.
Indeed, it is not that is power does not damage men.
It is primarily that the ruler does not become harmful to men.
When opposites no longer damage each other,
Both are benefited through the attainment of Tao.

(Chang, 60)

“To the good I am good; to the non-good I am also good, for Life is goodness.
To the faithful I am faithful; to the unfaithful I am also faithful, for Life is faithfulness.” . . .
The Man of Calling accepts them all as his children.

(Wilhelm, 49)