

THEME: GENERATION RESCUE: SUSTAINABLE WATER FOR ALL

Title: *Water Flows, Life Follows*

In Daoist beliefs, water symbolizes the Dao, or simply put it, the way.

Water describes the way of human life being in harmony, or the flow of human life softly navigating through the realities of the universe. Water is the way of life, and we are one with the flow of water because we are alive. Alive, because water sustains.

Water sustains all of us. It flows through our taps and into our cups to provide us with life. Water quenches our thirst, satiating our bodies while bringing upon the serene sense of contentment and healthiness. It flows through and maintains the world's rivers and lakes, oceans and seas— providing humanity with livelihood: a purpose to live and work. Thus, when water flows, life follows.

But for many, water does not flow freely.

For some people, water gushes out in harsh spurts— spurts of black and dirt-laced liquid too impure to sustain life. This water is laced with lead, toxins, and other dangerous chemicals that leave one feeling more sick than revitalized. This water also flows with pollutants such as garbage and plastics. Some float on its surface, while some become small enough to become a part of it. ***How can we allow such water flow to these people?***

For others, water does not even flow at all. Water comes in clay jars and buckets, sourced from polluted springs and oases that are too far away from their homes. Water comes from the thousand steps that women and children take daily just to find such source of life— a thousand steps that are taken in the middle of harsh, dry climates that leave the body thirstier and needier than it already is. For them, water does not flow from a tap, or from anything else near them, no matter how hard they beg from the universe. ***No matter how strong the flow of water is as it navigates our lives and the world around us, it does not flow to these people.***

Without a steady flow of water, how can life for them flow?

Life only flows where water goes. Without water, no life can be sustained. Without water, there is no purpose or way. In fact, water *is* the way; it itself is how we are in harmony with life. Thus, as one global community, we must act now for the flow of water to reach all corners of the Earth. This is the way that we must follow through, the purpose that we must strive to attain, and the flow that we must go along with.

Hence, this is how we find harmony with the universe. As water flows throughout the world to sustain us and give life, we must also sustain others through accessible water in turn, so that they too may thrive and follow the flow of life that the universe has always intended for them to follow. ***For wherever water flows, life follows.***