Name: Date: Period:

excerpt from the *Tao Te Ching* by Lao-tzu

Define the “Tao”:

What is a paradox?

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| from the *Tao Te Ching*: | Explanation: |
| The Tao never does anything, yet through it all things are done.  *\*Note: How is this paradoxical statement (a paradox)?* |  |
| If powerful men and women could center themselves in it, the whole world would be transformed by itself, in its natural rhythms.  People would be content with their simple, everyday lives, in harmony, and free of desire. |  |
| When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you. |  |
| The best athlete wants his opponent at his best.  The best general enters the mind of the enemy.  The best businessman serves the communal good.  The best leader follows the will of the people. |  |
| All of them embody the virtue of non-competition. Not that they don’t love to compete, but they do it in the spirit of play.  In this they are like children in harmony with the Tao  *\*Note: How is this a Taoist principle?* |  |