

Taoist (Good)

Taoist characters are rather eccentric. They are not selfish, in that they care nothing for wealth, riches, or any personal gain, but they are self-centered in that they'd rather have fun than be bothered by serious obligations. Ultimately, the Taoist is always torn. On the one hand, the character should work for the good of others. However, the attainment of wisdom, insight, and even Immortality are also the goals of the Taoist. Also, since a Taoist takes the long view, the character is willing to let people suffer if it's possible they'll learn from the experience.

A good example of Taoist behavior is the story of the Taoist and the young thief:

"While drinking in a low dive, a young man was complaining about his lack of funds. "If only," said the delinquent, "I knew the secrets of the thief, I'd never lack for money in this town."

"Would you like to learn how to be a thief?" asked the Taoist. "Just come with me tonight. I'll break into the richest house in town and you'll learn everything you need to know to be an excellent thief."

The young man agreed and they met late that night. Everything went splendidly, as the Taoist showed the young man how to hide his smell so he wouldn't alarm the animals, how to move quietly, how to hide in the shadows, and how to break open the gate. Finally, once they were inside, the Taoist proceeded to pick the lock of the family's treasure chest.

"Quick," whispered the Taoist, "hop inside."

Thinking that he was to search the inside of the chest for hidden riches, the young thief did as he was told.

At which point the Taoist slammed down the lid of the chest, locked it, and then loudly began singing and rummaging around among the wine cabinet of the house. Before slipping out the front door, wine jar in hand, the Taoist even lit a candle in the room with the chest.

Terrified, the youngster huddled in the chest, which was locked from the outside, while the inhabitants of the house flew into an uproar. Seeing only the flickering of the candle, and a few shapes passing by, the young thief could only wait in horror.

However, after a few minutes, when most of the armed men of the house seemed to have gone outside, the thief started to scratch the inside of the chest, making just a small amount of noise.

Then, when one of the ladies opened the lock, he sprang out, blew out the candle, and ran panic-stricken into the night.

Outside, there was little hope of escape, with family members, police, and neighbors all in pursuit. So the young thief had no choice but to dive into a nearby well, hoping that he would be overlooked.

Sure enough, the ruse worked, and the young thief managed to stay hidden all the night, and all through the next day, until the following midnight.

Shivering with cold and fright, the youngster started to climb out of the well, when suddenly a hand reached out to grab him, and pull him out.

"Ho, ho," said the Taoist, laughing at the young thief's shocked expression.

"Why... why did you trap me there last night?" said the thief.

"Well," said the Taoist, "you did say you wanted to learn everything about being a thief..."

A Taoist Character Will...

1. Intend to keep their word of honor, when they give it. However, if things change, well...
2. Avoid Lies (except in fun).
3. Cheat whenever necessary.
4. Will not kill an unarmed foe (but will take advantage of the situation).
5. Never harm an innocent.
6. Not use torture unless absolutely necessary.
7. Never kill for pleasure.

8. Usually help those in need.

9. Refuse to take any position of leadership or authority, except in a short-term emergency.

10. Ignore the law and the rules, whenever they feel they can get away with it. However, they will never violate the law for personal gain.

11. Usually make fun of authority.

12. Usually, but not always, stick by a friend.