

CAO DAI IS DAI DAO



Nam Mô Cao Đài Tiên Ông Đại Bồ Tát Ma Ha Tát

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I'd like to thank the Organizing Committee of The Sixth Euroviet Conference for giving me the opportunity to talk about Caodaism at the University of Hamburg in the framework of Vietnamese Studies on its Religions and Ethnicity.

As a caodaist disciple, I know that there are many specific aspects that the West cannot understand exactly: what is Cao Dai? And what is Dai Dao? Through this concise presentation, I will try to give you answers to these questions as explained in Cao Dai Spiritual Teaching.

I would like to tell you straight away **Cao-Dai is not only a universal religion but also the Dai-Dao** because the main purpose of Cao Dai teaching is to study, to understand the Dao or Tao and then apply it in daily life.

I. WHAT IS CAO DAI?

1. Cao Dai is a new religion created by GOD in Vietnam:

In 1926, a new Universal Religion was officially declared “created by GOD Himself” in the South of Vietnam, using the “spiritualist” communication called Spiritism. This religion is called “**đạo Cao Đài**” in Vietnamese. But its official name is “**ĐẠI-ĐẠO TAM-KỶ PHỒ-ĐỘ**” which can be roughly translated by “THE DAI DAO THIRD ERA OF THE UNIVERSAL DIVINE SALVATION”.

We notice that “DAI DAO” are the two words immediately mentioned in the official name of the religion “Cao Dai”. This shows explicitly “**Cao Dai is Dai Dao**”. We can read this expression on the main entrance of every Cao Dai Temple or on the Cao Dai’s flag (pictures 1 and 2). Many books have already explained this expression. Today, I will look specifically at the profound meaning of two terms «**CAO DAI**» and «**DAI DAO**».

Cao Dai has two clear objectives:

1. “**Thế Đạo Đại Đồng**” in Vietnamese, which means “**The Temporal Way is universal**”. This main Cao Dai’s purpose on mankind’s life is to build together a **Holy Society** on Earth in peace and of course in the universal brotherhood. We are all brothers and sisters of One Great Merciful Father or GOD the Creator.
« *“GOD did not call man to serve HIM but instead human beings should improve themselves in order to build a Paradise for mankind and the world on Earth.”*»

“... The movement and its momentum have been established, despite the fact that, willingly or not, what must happen will happen. A Holy Society will be built on the **Dai Dao’s foundation: Justice, Rectitude, Universal Love, Mercy and Universality.**”
» (Holy Message of **Dai Dao’s Ancestors**, 07/03/1974, at Dai Dao Popularizing Organization)

2. “**Thiên Đạo Giải Thoát**” in Vietnamese, which means “**The Spiritual Way aims to release human souls from their reincarnation’s cycle**”. How can humans avoid the reincarnation, according to the Caodaism? By performing constantly with an extreme sincerity the **Three Cao Dai practices** (“**Tam Công**” in Vietnamese):
 - The **practice of goodness** (“**Công Quả**” in Vietnamese)
 - The **practice of self-improvement** (“**Công Trình**” in Vietnamese)
 - And the **practice of meditation** (“**Công Phu**” in Vietnamese).

2. Cao Dai’s Revelation

In 1920, the name “Cao Dai” was heard for the first time by the first Cao Dai disciple, **His Holiness Ngô Minh Chiêu** (alias Ngô Văn Chiêu (1878-1932)) (picture 3), in a spirit-seance. There was a Spirit who introduced Himself as “**Cao Dai Tiên Ông**” (**Immortal “Cao Dai”**) and asked Mr Ngô to correct one erroneous verse of the Chinese prayer invoking Spirits. At this time, nobody knew who “Cao Dai Tiên Ông” was. The audience asked the Spirit who He was. The Spirit did not give a direct answer but answered with these words:

« **Cao Đài ứng hóa theo lòng chúng sanh,
Đố ai biết được cái danh Cao Đài ?** »

Translation:

« **Cao Dai changes in accord with man’s heart,
Who knows the true name of Cao Dai?** »

We observe that here there was already a link between “Cao Dai” and the “man’s heart” in the answer. We can get more details on the website: <http://dulanlad.multiply.com/journal/item/58> of “**Huệ Khải Lê Anh Dũng**”.

3. Cao Dai is the name of GOD

The official name of GOD in the religion Cao Dai is « **CAO DAI TIÊN ÔNG DAI-BỒ-TAT MA-HA-TAT** ». In the Cao Dai Bible called “**Anthology of Cao Dai Holy Messages**” («**Thánh-Ngôn Hiệp-Tuyển** », 1972, p. 5, Cao Dai Holy See in Tây-ninh), we can read in the first divine message of the book, a message received on Christmas night, **24 Dec. 1925**, that for the first time God Cao Dai (until this moment named by the three first characters “**Ả Ằ**” of the Vietnamese alphabet) announced His true name:

“NGOC-HOÀNG THƯỢNG-ĐẾ KIM VIẾT
CAO ĐÀI TIÊN ÔNG ĐAI-BỒ-TÁT MA-HA-TÁT
GIÁO **ĐẠO** NAM PHƯƠNG”

This can be translated by:

“GOD OF THE JADE EMPEROR NOW CALLED
IMMORTAL **CAO DAI** GREAT BODHISATTVA MAHA SATTVA
TEACHING **THE DAO** IN VIETNAM”

As we will see later “Dai Dao is Dao”, **the fact that God Cao Dai, founder of the religion, declared in His official name that He taught the Dao, involves explicitly again “Cao Dai is Dai Dao”.**

In this official name, there is a combination of the Three Ancient Doctrines in the East:

- “Cao Dai” belonging to **Confucianism**
- “Tiên Ông” belonging to **Taoism**
- And « Dai-Bô-Tat Ma-Ha-Tat » belonging to **Buddhism**.

4. Cao Dai as a symbolic name of GOD

Symbolically and literally, “Cao Dai” means the “**High Tower**” or the **Throne of God** in the universe. In the book “**Cao Đài Giáo Sơ Giải (Simple Explanations on Caodaism)**”, 1963, p. 31 of His Holiness **Huệ-Lương Trần Văn Quế** (1902-1980) we learn that in 1927, God Cao Dai Himself had explained in Cần Thơ (South Vietnam) what Cao Dai is by this poem:

« ***Linh Tiêu nhất tháp thị Cao Đài,**
Đại hội quần tiên thử ngọc giai.
Vạn trượng hào quang tùng thử xuất.
Cổ danh bửu cảnh Lạc Thiên Thai.* »

Translation:

« *There is a **Heavenly Tower** called “**Linh Tiêu**” which is truly “**Cao Dai**”,
Where is organized **The Great Celestial Meeting of Immortal Spirits**.
The brightness of their halo is projected very far thousands of miles.
The ancient name of this valuable place was “Paradise’s Felicity”».*

By this explanation, we can understand that **Cao Dai is a heavenly tower where all Divine Spirits reunite to govern the universe under the SUPREME BEING.**

5. Cao Dai as the Target for Human Evolution

The restoration of humanist values is the base of Cao Dai Humanism. “**Justice, Universal Love, Mercy, Rectitude and Universality**” are Cao Dai principles in order to construct a peaceful and universal society with equilibrium between **material factor** and **spiritual factor** for human life.

The organization of human society can be presented in summary by the three-level pyramid:

- At the apex are the Leader components.
- At the middle level are the Administration components.
- And at the base are members.

An ordered society is commonly structured with this architecture of a Tower but it’s not yet a high tower of “Cao Dai”. Indeed, each tower can get some height of some values by means of its capability to survive but it is not necessarily high from the humanist point of view if there is a lack of a basic element. What is this basic element? GOD taught: “**Your sincere heart and your mission of getting the harmony to live together are Cao Dai**” (Holy message of God Cao Dai, lunar date 15 Oct. – year of Buffalo “**Quý-Sử**” 1973, Dai Dao Popularizing Organization) (Abstract of “**Yếu-Điểm Giáo-Lý Đại-Đạo**” (The Essentials of Dai-Dao’s Doctrine), 2006, Dai Dao Popularizing Organization)

“**To live together in harmony**” should be the common and main objective of Mankind starting from a small group of two people for example to a family, an association, a nation etc. and finally to the whole human society. More details can be found at <http://www.nhipcaugiaoly.org>, topic: **Cao Đài** by **Thiện-Quang**

6. The “External Cao Dai” (or “Cao Đài ngoại tại” in Vietnamese)

The “External Cao Dai” is the whole system embodying the organization of the Cao Dai church, the architecture of the Cao Dai Temple, the religious Constitution, New Cao Dai Laws, Cao Dai Rituals and Prayers and Cao Dai’s Doctrine. We won’t develop the whole Cao Dai Exoterism here but just some main themes. The Cao Dai Temple’s architecture reflects its Trinity organization as follows:

1. **The Temple of Nine Degrees of Evolution** that is the **Executive Body** with a Pope at the head and its Priesthood’s system. We notice that there is the Women’s College with a female Cardinal at the head. All are in charge of the Evangelization of Cao Dai’s doctrine and the material and spiritual Assistance to people, alive or dead.
2. **The Temple of the Divine Alliance** that is the **Legislative Body** with The Dharma’s Protector at the head and Twelve Zodiacal Dignitaries etc. in charge of organizing the Spirit-séances, protecting and controlling the religious Laws, censoring religious books and teaching the meditation. This is the gateway between the human world and the invisible world. It realizes the Cao Dai’s principle of “the Unity of Divine Will and human will”.
3. **The Octagonal Temple** that represents the **Sacred Power**. Here is installed the GOD and Superior Spirits’ altar symbolizing the unification of the three Ancient Doctrines (Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism) and the five religious Branches (Humanism, Cult of Genius, Cult of Saint, Taoism and Buddhism). **GOD is represented by a Divine Eye, the left one, which is the Spirit of the universe.**

(See picture 11)

7. The “Inner Cao Dai” or “Cao Đài nội tại” in Vietnamese

The “Inner Cao Dai” is the human conscience, our mind, located inside of us, in every man, woman and child. By extension, Cao Dai is in every living being, from a microscopic cell to vegetables, animals, humans and the universe.

Here are two verses of a long poem in a Cao Dai Holy message of “**Vạn-Hạnh Thiên-Sư**” (? – 1018) (a Vietnamese Zen Buddhist Master of Ten Thousand Virtues during the Lý Dynasty), on 11 May 1970, at the Meditation Centre “Trúc-Lâm” in the South of Vietnam:

« **Chữ Tâm là chốn Cao-Đài,**
Không phân tả hữu là ngại Thượng-Hoàng. »

Translation:

« **The Heart is the place of Cao Dai,**
Do not distinguish between the left and the right is the God’s Throne. »

One other Holy message of **Quan Âm Bồ Tát** (Spirit of **Kwan Yin Bodhisattva** or **Avalokitésvara** in Sanskrit), Sept. 03 1974, Minh Lý Thánh Hội:

« **Tâm người là một Cao-Đài,**
Là tiểu Thiên-Địa, Tam Tài chí linh. »

Translation:

« **The Human Heart is Cao Dai,**
This is the microcosm of the Universe, the Divine Trinity. »

God Cao Dai said: “*I am you all and all of you are ME*” (“*Thầy là các con, các con là Thầy*” in Vietnamese). Everyone has God inside them. **How to construct the “inner Cao Dai tower” and with which materials?** Here are the answers of “**Như Ý Đạo Toàn**

Chơn Nhơn” Thái Lão Sư Lê Đạo Long (1843 – 1913) (picture 4) in many Cao Dai Holy messages:

*“If you are truly determined to really build this inner Cao Dai Tower it will be indestructible for ever. (...) The architect Master is **Spirit**, the materials are **Breath** and **Physical Essence**.”* (April 20 1978, Dai Dao Popularizing Organization)

*“If Brothers and Sisters want to build the miraculous and eternal Cao Dai tower you must eliminate completely all differentiations about “love or hatred”, “friend or enemy”, worries and fear. In that way your **Spirit** will be perspicacious enough to be able to bring Two Poles of the “**Former Heaven Breath**” and the “**Physical Essence**” in order to build your Inner Cao Dai Tower.”* (May 05 1978, Dai Dao Popularizing Organization)

“Cao Dai is the Spirit of the universe, the spirit and origin of human being. Something having a name but nameless because all creatures are born from it but it’s not born anywhere. Even the name of “Cao Dai” is a temporary one to indicate the human’s origin, the most valuable part inside of man, which is called the spiritual part, the ni-wan, and the diamond of completeness or the lotus throne.” (Oct. 05 1983, Dai Dao Popularizing Organization)

With the architecture of a tower, there are a base at the foundation and then many floors, many upper levels until the top. It shows us the aspiration of the sublimation of our soul. We always want to improve ourselves to reach higher and higher level or value in our life, material and spiritual. And when reaching the top, we can have a global and general view, dropping the details which can divide us. I mean that when we go up to a higher level we get a higher level in our view. In the spiritual point of view that means we are more “open-minded”.

In this meaning, **Cao Dai is the elevation of man’s soul.**

8. Cao Dai is the Meditative Centre at the top of head

This is an important point concerning the meditation. In the point of view of a mysterious meaning, « *Cao Dai is the “Côn Lôn mountain peak” or the “Ni-wan” (Nê Hoàn Cung in Vietnamese). It belongs to the High Universe.* » (source: **Đại-Thừa Chơn-Giáo (Great Vehicle of Cao Dai Esoterism)**, 1956, p. 56, Chiếu-Minh Vô-Vi)

We find one other message of **GOD Cao Dai** in the Esoteric Teaching:

*“ **Cao quá đối cao mấy kẻ tầm,
Đài linh thần khí tụ nơi tâm ;
Thượng điền lập đánh âm dương tụ,
Đế dĩ long thăng hổ giáng lâm.”***

(**Đại-Thừa Chơn-Giáo (Great Vehicle of Cao Dai Esoterism)**, 1956, p. 88)

Translation:

*“It’s so high that nobody can search out,
The miraculous tower unites **Breath** and **Spirit** in one’s **heart** (or **conscience**);
Establishing the vase at the upper field to concentrate the **yin** and the **yang**,
To perform the **dragon’s elevation** and the **tiger’s coming down** (*).”*

(*) The same meaning of the **union of « K’an and Li »** (« **Chiết Khâm Điền Ly (Extract the K’an to complete the Li)** » in Vietnamese) (Picture 5).

In conclusion, Cao Dai is the **Meditative Centre** where unite the breath and the spirit of human being in the highest region of one's brain. It's also called the "**Celestial Gate**" (Thiên-Môn in Vietnamese).

9. Cao Dai without being Cao Dai is the true Cao Dai

This is a **nonego message of Cao Dai**. The **Dai-Dao Spiritual Pope Li T'ai B'ai** said: "*Cao Dai without being Cao Dai is the true Cao Dai. Cao Dai is not born itself only for Vietnam or neither for any country. It does not belong to this person or to the other one (...). Cao Dai is Cao Dai. That's, nothing else. The TRUTH does deny itself that it's not the truth.*" (Holy message on Feb. 06 1974, at Dai-Dao Popularizing Organization)

"The religion Cao Dai does not aim to found one more religion, but recommends reuniting all existing religions in one. Not only constructing a right position for every proper organization but also making all organizations realize the noble vocation in this world and in the God's Kingdom or the Nirvana." (**Đạo-Học Chỉ Nam** (A Study of The Dao orienting to the South), Minh-Lý Thánh-Hội, 1971, chapter II, paragraph 4, topic 1, page 73)

Cao Dai gave the following message, at Vinh-Nguyên-Tự, on April 07 1926, in «**Thánh-Ngôn Hiệp-Tuyển** » (**Anthology of Cao Dai Holy Messages**):

*"Dipankara Buddha (a Very Ancient Buddha) is Me,
Sakya Muni is Me,
Thai Thuong Nguon Thi (a previous incarnation of Lao Tse) is Me.
Who is now Cao Dai."*

"(...) If Cao Dai religion is only Cao Dai, a separate defined entity, it would not truly be Cao Dai as it is meant to be. If Cao Dai is not only Cao Dai, but encompasses Buddhism or Taoism or Confucianism or Christianity or any path toward God, it is then truly Cao Dai. Cao Dai does not propound to convert the followers of any path, but wishes to unite all faiths in the understanding that **faiths all are of one same principle, and teach tolerance between the religions**. That alone would put an end to the religious strife which leads to the majority of wars in the world" ("**Cao Dai, A Religion Of Unity**", Hum Dac Bui & Ngasha Beck, Edition 2000, p. 29).

See also <http://www.nhipcaugiaoly.org>, topic: "**Cao Đài Không Phải Cao Đài**" by **Hoàng Mai**

II. WHAT IS DAI DAO?

1. "Dai Dao" is a Taoist Concept

Dai-Dao is a Taoist concept of the origin of all living beings and of all phenomena, from the infinitely small to the infinitely big. We can read the first sentence in the very ancient Chinese Taoist book "**THE BOOK OF SERENITY**" (THANH TĨNH KINH - 清靜經). The author was maybe **Cát Huyền** 葛玄 (164-244); or a nameless Taoist living in the Tang dynasty (618-907) or in the period of the Five Greats (907-1279). (Source www.nhipcaugiaoly.org; Topic: "**Thanh Tĩnh Kinh Chú Giải**" – Author: **Lê Anh Minh**)

1. 老君曰：大道無形，生育天地；大道無情，運行日月；大道無名，長養萬物。吾不知其名，強名曰道。

Lão Quân viết: «**Đại Đạo** vô hình, sinh dục thiên địa; **Đại Đạo** vô tình, vận hành nhật nguyệt. **Đại Đạo** vô danh, trường dưỡng vạn vật. Ngô bất tri kỳ danh, cưỡng danh [1] viết **Đạo**.»

[Chú] : [1] cường danh = miễn cưỡng gọi tên là; gượng gọi tạm là.

Translation :

Lão Quân, a previous incarnation of Lao Tse, said: « **Dai Dao** was invisible but created and nourished the Heaven and the Earth. **Dai Dao** was without feeling but made function the Sun and the Moon. **Dai Dao** was nameless but nourished and made grow all creatures. I did not know its name. So I called it temporarily “**Dao**”. »

So, **DAI DAO** is **DAO** or **TAO**.

2. One Yin and One Yang form DAO

God Cao Dai said: “ *The Dao of Mine is not at all strange: “Yin and Yang or Spirit and Breath”. Nothing other than this principle. If you want to know it clearly use the Yin and the Yang as its base then.*” (Source: **Đại Thừa Chơn Giáo (Great Vehicle of Cao Dai Esoterism)**, 1956, p. 97, Chiếu-Minh Vô-Vi). The chapter V of Hệ Từ, the third book of I Ching says: “**One Yin and One Yang form DAO**”. Yang is dynamic or movement. Yin is static or serenity.

In the same manner of the Yin and Yang concept, we have here an explanation of the word MAN in Cao Dai Esoteric Teaching: « *The [Chinese] word of MAN (人) (picture 6) contains a hidden mysterious mechanism of the Dao because this word is drawn with one curved line on the left which is “the principal Yang” and the other one on the right which is “the true Yin”. Yin and Yang are mixed in the human being because man is in movement or stays quiet, is semi-dirty and semi-pure. The one who has a clever intuition and knows how to search out for the Tao to eliminate what are dirty and keep the purity will become limpid and wise.* » (**Great Vehicle of Cao Dai Esoterism**, 1956, p.19).

As Dao is invisible, ancient Sages tried to explain it by symbols. The Yang is symbolized by a continuous line, the Yin a broken line. That is the basic concept of I Ching. The process goes from simplicity to complexity. We can have a look at the symbol of The Dao and the diagram of the binary system of I Ching. (Pictures 7 to 10)

3. GOD is DAO

In “Le Monde du Tao”, a French translation from the American book by **Claude Elson** of the original book “Creativity and Taoism” of Dr of Philosophy **Chang Chung Yuan** - Columbia University (USA), 1979, Stock+Plus, page 39 we can read : « The first translations in Chinese of **the Christian Bible** according to saint Jean would start with these words : “**At the beginning was the Tao and the Tao was in God, and the Tao was God ...**” »

The idea “**God is Dao**” is confirmed in many authorized Cao Dai Holy messages, here are some of them received from the Spirit of Famous Vietnamese Trần Dynasty General **Trần Hưng Đạo** (1228 – 1300), at Minh-Lý Thánh Hội, in Hồ Chí Minh City, extracted from the book « **Quẻ Kiên – Châu Dịch Huyền Nghĩa** » (**The Hexagram Ch’ien – Mysterious Meaning of the Zhou Dynasty’s I Ching**), 1992. On page 39: “*Nothing is as powerful as God! **God is Dao**. One Energy Flux moves periodically, through eternal and endless time and unlimited space. All creatures, without exception, are protected and preserved by it and nothing can damage it.*”

And on the page 43:

« **God is Dao**, mysterious and sublime,

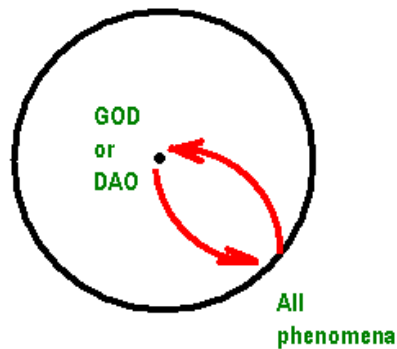
*Yi is the mechanism of transformation, of generation and of creation.
Invisible, without feeling, nameless (*),
That is the One Energy Flux which functions and moves in harmony.*

*The **Heaven**, the **Earth** and **Man** are miraculously reunited in the **Unity**.
Dynamic or static, it functions in accord with the Law of the Universe.
The Central and Unique Throne is the Logos of the “**existed by itself**” **Supreme Being**.*

***The interaction between the Yin and the Yang** transforms and changes from simplicity to complexity. »*

(*) We have previously seen this concept in the Book of Serenity.

By this explanation, Dao or God is the origin of the universe and man. We can summarize all these ideas by a simple formula: « **DAI DAO = DAO = GOD = CAO-DAI = MAN** ».



CAO DAI is DAI DAO

In the diagram, at the center of the circle is GOD or DAO or “Cao Dai” if you like. At the beginning, from one source which is God or Dao or Cao Dai emanate all things, all phenomena like action, reaction, transformation, interaction, creation, mutation, destruction, regeneration, reincarnation etc. But at the end, they’ll return to their divine origin. This is a **fundamental principle of Cao Dai**.

III. CONCLUSION

If we understand that Cao Dai is God and God is Dao, we’ll understand easily **Cao Dai is Dai Dao** but I’d like to add to this that “**Dai Dao is the Dai Dao for all not only for Cao Dai**”.

And to conclude, I’d to tell you that “**Vietnam is the holy land chosen by GOD in this Third Dai Dao Era of Universal Divine Salvation**”. Many authorized Cao Dai Holy messages confirm it. Here are two of them:

1. The first one received at the Cao Dai Temple Bàu Sen, in Hô Chi Minh City, on 25-Dec-1967, by **JESUS CHRIST**: “*Dear followers of the chosen people! The mission that God gave to you, was not to be the people who fertilize the land but who sow the seeds. The importance is not the conditions to start but the sprout to start. (...) Dear followers! Be ready! The expected day and time are coming. Life of the spring is moving in the dead*

winter. During the dark of night the wonderful daybreak is preparing to appear. Dearly chosen people! Be not asleep! Don't fall in passion! Don't dream in the darkness of the winter night. **Wake up and wait to see arriving the splendid spring light when nobody is expecting it!**

2. The second one received by **DAI DAO SPIRITUAL POPE**, Spirit of Li T'ai Bó, 16/02/1969: " ... Brothers and sisters, be patient and wait. What will happen is coming. Since ancient times, in the history of mankind, **one has heard very well about Vietnam and has clearly seen Vietnam, a nation to which all countries are now looking. Not looking to it because it is a threat of destroying the world but looking to it because it will be exactly a dynamic energy of the spiritual salvation and the new edification for humanity.**"

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Since 1926, in Vietnam, a divine message for peace has been transmitted to the world:

- **All nations in the world should be ONE,**
- **All religions should be ONE,**
- **And all races should be ONE.**

So that we can hope sincerely that one day humanity will be able to live in peace, in the **Universal Love of GOD**, in the **Dai Dao Era of the Universal Brotherhood**. It should be the Human dream. **It's actually the Cao Dai's dream!**

Thank you very much for your attention.



If we have time, I'd like to show you a media clip about Vietnamese traditional music of Cao Dai in MP3; the author of the song "**BEING BLESSED TO MEET THE DAO!**" is His Holiness **Cao Hoài Sang** (1901 – 1971). Here is its translation:

Henceforth, what's a great joy for Vietnam!
The holy torch of the South Vietnam shines brightly!
The Dao is now founded and will propagate in the world for seven hundred thousand years. **(Bis)**

The SUPREME BEING bless all humanity
By founding Cao Dai, the Dao.
To bring the Three Ancient Doctrines (1) and the Five Religious Branches (2) back to the Primordial Unity.

Now is the last epoch of the Evolution of the Universe,
The Dai-Dao Third Divine Salvation is founded.
The boat of the Divine Wisdom berths alongside of the Ignorance shore.
To save all who know to seize such opportunity!

The Very Big Assembly of "Flowers and Dragon" is opening on Earth,
The Divine bell resounds and presses everyone in the five continents,
To follow immediately the light of the Wisdom.

Hurry up! Quit this profane world and search out for the Holy Life.

Brothers and sisters co-religionists, we're all very happy and satisfied,
To be together in the Universal Brotherhood!
God bless us for thousands of years!

On earth, humans are suffering,
Wake up from illusory dreams to search the Dao in time.
The fortune and richness are as foams of breaking waves.
Leave the profane life, get blessed with meeting the Dai-Dao Third Universal Divine
Salvation!

Note:

- (1) Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism
- (2) Five Dai-Dao Religious Branches:
 - Humanism
 - Cult of Genius
 - Cult of Saint (like Christianity, Confucianism etc)
 - Taoism
 - Buddhism

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Picture 1

Main Entrance of the Cao Dai Holy See at Tây-ninh

In the South of Vietnam



Picture 2

Cao Dai's FLAG



Picture 3

**His Holiness Ngô Minh Chiêu (1878-1932)
The First Caodaist Disciple**



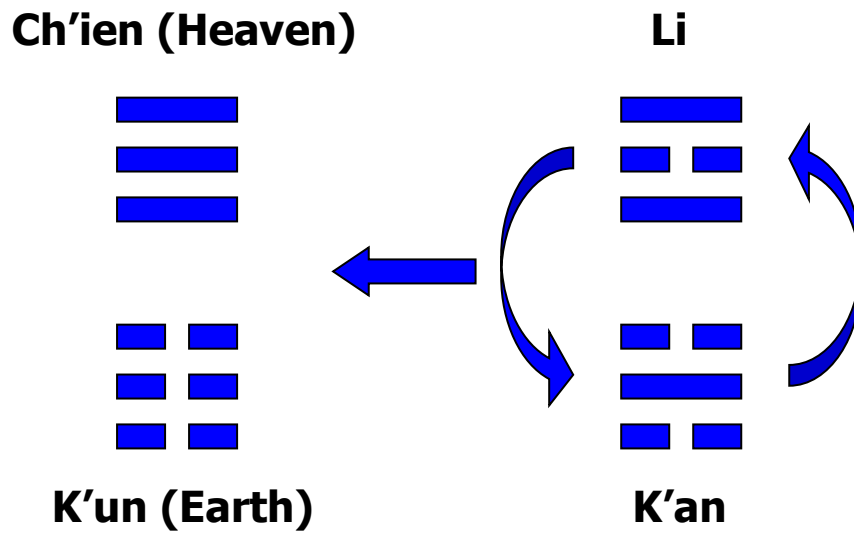
Picture 4

**His Holiness
NHƯ Ý ĐẠO TOÀN CHƠN NHƠN
Thái Lão Sư Lê Đạo Long (1843 – 1913)**

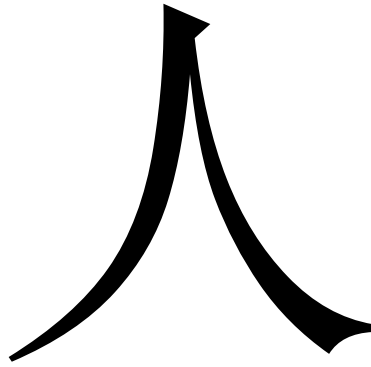
**The Founder of the Historic Pagoda
Vĩnh-Nguyên-Tự in 1908**

**An important Celebration of the 100th anniversary
of its foundation was organized
during 19 – 20 April 2008 at Cần-Giuộc (VN)**

This is an ancient precept of the meditation:
« **Extract the K'an to complete the Li** »
(« *Chiết Khảm Điền Ly* » in Vietnamese)

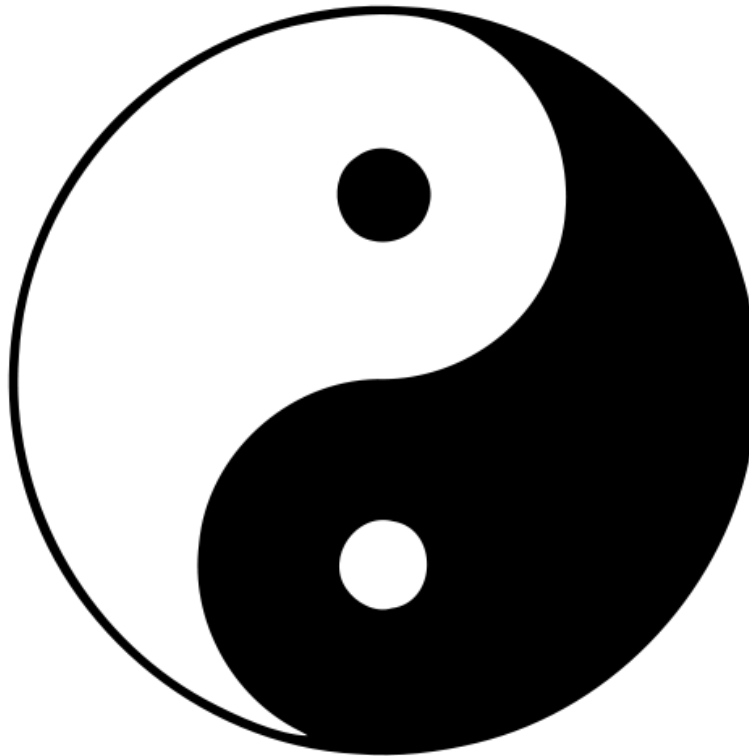


Picture 5



Picture 6

Chinese word of MAN



Picture 7

Note: This is **The Monad's** symbol (**Thái Cực** in Vietnamese)

1. Black Half Big Circle is The **Major Yin** (**Thái Âm** in Vietnamese): two broken superposed lines in the Yi King's symbol.



2. White small circle is the **Minor Yang** (**Thiếu Dương** in Vietnamese): one broken line above one continuous line in the Yi King's symbol.



3. White Half Big Circle is The **Major Yang** (**Thái Dương** in Vietnamese): two continuous superposed lines in the Yi King's symbol.

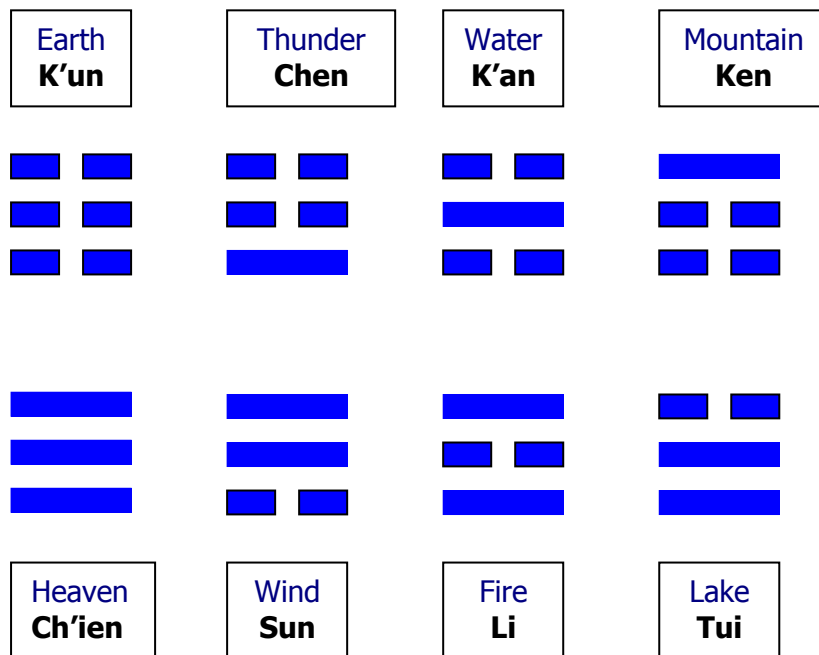


4. Black small circle is the **Minor Yin** (**Thiếu Âm** in Vietnamese): one continuous line above one broken line in the Yi King's symbol.



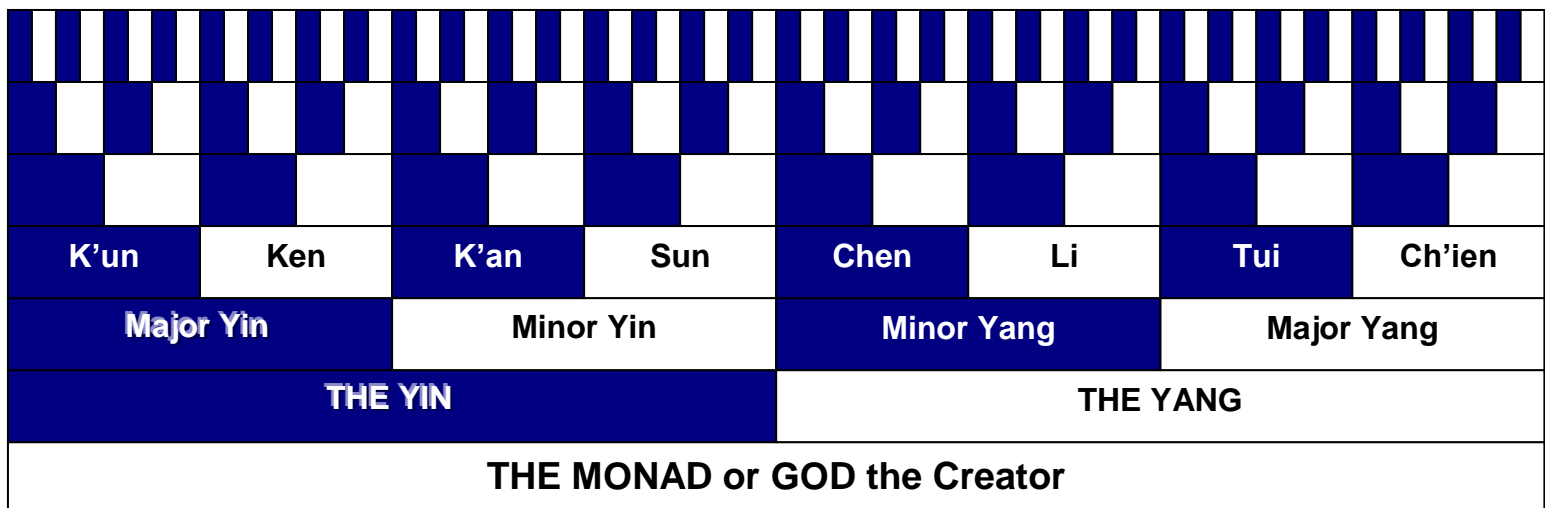
These four elements constitute the “**Tetrad**” (**Tứ Tượng** in Vietnamese)

The **Eight** ($2^3 = 8$) **Trigrams** (or Pa Kua) of the **Yi King** (or I Ching) (**Bát Quái** in Vietnamese):



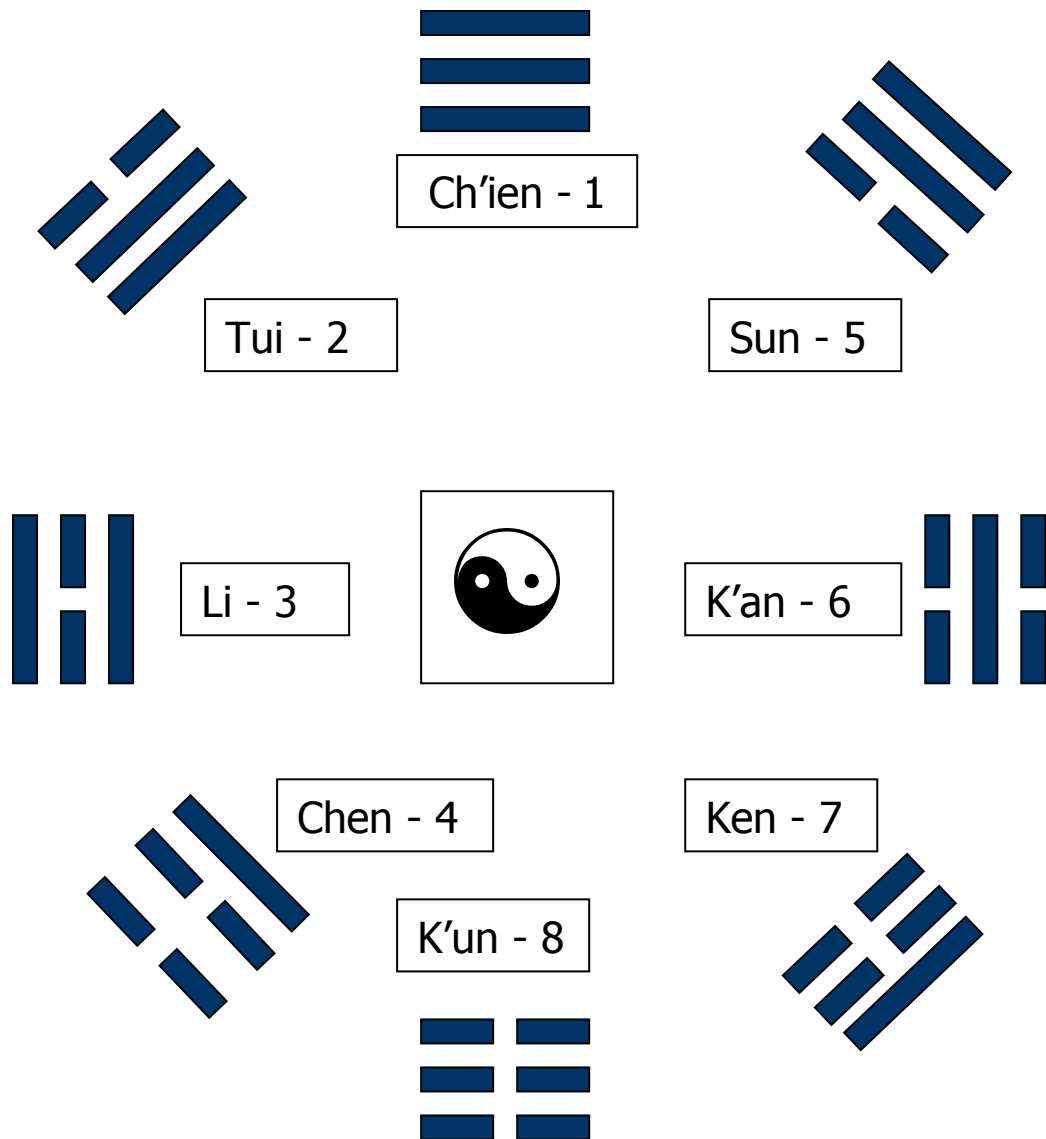
Picture 8

Below, the diagram of **Sixty-Four** ($2^6 = 64$) **Hexagrams** of the **Yi King**



Picture 9

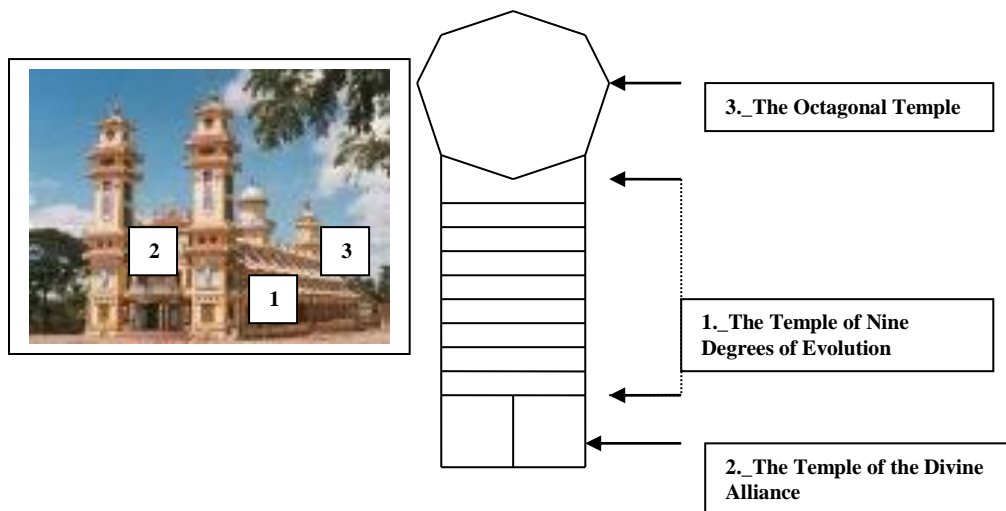
This is the **BINARY SYSTEM** of the Yi King or I Ching



Picture 10

The Before-Heaven Pa Kua Eight Trigrams of I Ching

(Tiên Thiên Bát Quái in Vietnamese)



1. **The Temple of Nine Degrees of Evolution** that is the **Executive Body** with a Pope at the head and its Priesthood's system. We notice that there is the Women's College with a female Cardinal at the head. All are in charge of the Evangelization of Cao Dai's doctrine and the material and spiritual Assistance to people, alive or dead.
2. **The Temple of the Divine Alliance** that is the **Legislative Body** with The Dharma's Protector at the head and Twelve Zodiacal Dignitaries etc. in charge of organizing the Spirit-séances, protecting and controlling the religious Laws, censoring religious books and teaching the meditation. This is the gateway between the human world and the invisible world. It realizes the Cao Dai's principle of "the Unity of Divine Will and human will".
3. **The Octagonal Temple** that represents the **Sacred Power**. Here is installed the GOD and Superior Spirits' altar symbolizing the unification of the three Ancient Doctrines (Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism) and the five religious Branches (Humanism, Cult of Genius, Cult of Saint, Taoism and Buddhism). **GOD is represented by a Divine Eye, the left one, which is the Spirit of the universe.**

Picture 11