



Workshop on organ donation

Campania Region Auditorium
Naples, 9 May 2023

Thank you for the invitation. I came with joy to bring my testimony and that of the Taoist Church of Italy, on this issue that is so tragic and happy at the same time.

We Taoists believe that: In each of us shines a divine spark that reverberates like an oil lamp, in the life of the physical body.

Once the oil is consumed, the lamp is extinguished.

The divine spark NEVER does.

Therein lies our immortality and non-attachment to the physical body.

1st impediment

Instead, man identifies with his body.

Today more than ever physicality is an instrument of appearance.

Hence the importance given to the body for self-identification.

We identify ourselves in our bodies. Indeed, the body is ourselves.

Donating an organ, can be, for this reason, perceived as a disruption and an attack on one's self.

2nd impediment

Moreover, We humans tend to be selfish and tend to take possession of things and people.

Hence the other difficulty in donating an organ: the sense of selfish possession of the body.

But apart from breathing, tell me another bodily function over which we have mastery.

There isn't! It is not there because we do not own it.

So, If people were aware that the body is NOT their property and that it is NOT themselves, Then, donating a part of it, even in the tragedy of our dying, is a doubt that melts like snow in the sun.

What I have told you reflects the Taoist religious viewpoint.

To which is added an ethical motivation with radical spiritual aspects:

The Duren Jing, Our Writing of Universal Salvation states:

"The Dao values life and saves humanity without any limit."

And the Daode Jing, the scripture of the Dao and its Charisma, gives the reason:

"So that no one is lost."

So, for us Taoists, one must always do everything possible to save a life. While not going so far as therapeutic overkill, when it is time to go, one must let go. No one can stop the sun from setting. Saving a life by donating a part of oneself is not only an ethical act due but an act of spiritual merit because we protect something that does not belong to us: life.

If giving is an act of love, Donating an organ, is a Divine Act.



意大利道教會
Chiesa Taoista d'Italia
Ente Confessionale Religioso

A Divine Act that resides in our soul.
Turn off the mind, turn on the heart, and let out the love for each other.
It is all here!

Rev. Li Xuanzong
(*Vincenzo di Ieso*)
李玄宗 - 会长
Prefetto Generale CTI