

## **"BIE-MODERN LEAP-FORWARD PAUSE: DAOIST AESTHETICS, ORIGINAL EMPTY SPACE, AND MORAL AGENCY "**

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Wang Jianjiang states Bie-modern philosophy is an intertwining of modern, postmodern, and traditional Chinese aesthetics. On the proposed scenario, contemporary Chinese culture pauses to affirm traditional Chinese aesthetics and then leaps over some flaws in the project of the European Enlightenment in a way that late-modern Euro-American philosophies have not managed to do. But how does Bie-modern philosophy leap forward if it is still intertwined with features of a modern project that is flawed? How can Daoist and Chan approaches to aesthetics -- that depend in part on not thinking about things of the world -- help Bie-modern culture leap forward with a wisdom that is no less valuable globally than the speech of Euro-American theories restricted to statements of fact?

The Bie-modern account of a leap-forward-pause is compelling and supported by readily available contexts of observation. Daoist language connects nature as it is to aesthetic appreciation of one's own original nature. Looking at one's own original nature includes noticing what is called "empty space" -- a display in one's own eyes that is thus inseparable from one's own embodiment. Each person is able to check and observe for oneself an intrinsic showing of an original embodiment that is the basis for compassion and a moral community. By contrast, Kant asserts that the realm of nature cannot be the basis for a principle of morality. So, Bie-modern philosophy includes an aesthetics of embodiment that is almost entirely absent from modern European academies. It also describes how all persons can choose to cultivate thought of their own individual token displays of unique embodiment and step closer to an enlightened age with others. Chinese philosophers and artists do need to articulate principles of traditional Chinese aesthetics and offer them globally; the twentieth century suggests that cultures which interpret the realm of nature solely in terms of scientific understanding risk losing their balance.