



De 德

(virtue; manifestations of the *dao*).

(1) Generally speaking, in the Chinese tradition, the term ‘*de*’ means human moral virtue.

(2) In Daoism (especially in the *Dao-De-Jing*), the term ‘*de*’ is used in its related broad and narrow senses: in its broad sense, it means manifestations of the (metaphysical) *dao*, or individualized *daos*, in particular things of the universe; in its narrow sense, it means the the manifestation of the (metaphysical) *dao* in human beings regarding morality, the human virtue, which endows human beings with the power that distinguishes human beings from other things. See also *dao*.

Bo Mou

Literature:

Wang, David. “Chinese Philosophy: Ethics”, in *Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2nd edition), ed. Donald M. Borchert. Thomson-Gale/Macmillan Reference USA, 2006, 194-202.

Mou, Bo. “Moral Rules and Moral Experience: A Comparative Analysis of Dewey and Laozi on Morality”, *Asian Philosophy* 11:3 (2002), 161-78.