

Existence is beyond the power of words to define

Terms may be used:

But none of them is absolute.

In the beginning of heaven and earth there were no words.

Words came out of the womb of matter.

Whether ones sees dispassionately to the core of life

Or passionately to the surface,

The core and surface are essentially the same,

Words making them seem different

Only to express appearance.

If name be needed, wonder names them both:

From wonder, into wonder

Existence opens.

Lao Tsu

(translation by Witter Bynner with minor modifications)