

# 神龜

《莊子·秋水》

莊子釣於濮水。楚王使大夫二人往先焉，曰：「願以境內累矣！」莊子持竿不顧，曰：「吾聞楚有神龜，死已三千歲矣。王巾笥而藏之廟堂之上。此龜者，寧其死為留骨而貴乎？寧其生而曳尾於塗中乎？」

二大夫曰：「寧生而曳尾塗中。」莊子曰：「往矣！吾將曳尾於塗中。」

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## The Sacred Turtle

< The Zhuangzi >

Master Zhuang was fishing in the Pu river when the king of Chu sent two of his state counselors to see him. They said to him, "His Majesty wants to entrust you with the responsibilities of managing the affairs of the state."

Master Zhuang, holding his fishing rod and without even turning round, said, "I heard there was a sacred turtle which was three thousand years-old when it died. The king of Chu had its carcass embalmed, encased and enshrined in the temple of the state. Do you think the turtle would want to die and leave its carcass to be venerated or would want to live and wag its tail in the muddy river?"

"Of course it would want to live and wag its tail in the muddy river," they said.

"Leave me alone, please," said the Master, "I will wag my tail in the muddy river."