

The Need to Win

By Chuang Tzu

When an archer is shooting for nothing,
he has all his skill.

If he shoots for a brass buckle,
he is already nervous.

If he shoots for a prize of gold,
he goes blind

Or sees two targets—
He is out of his mind!

His skill has not changed. But the prize
Divides him. He cares.

He thinks more of winning
Than of shooting—

And the need to win drains him of power.