



Tao Te Ching

By Lao Tsu, Jane English (translator), Toinette Lippe (editor), Jacob Needleman (introduction)

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For nearly two generations, this translation of the *Tao Te Ching* has been the standard for those seeking access to the wisdom of Taoist thought. Now Jane English and her long-time editor, Toinette Lippe, have refreshed and revised the translation, so that it more faithfully reflects the Classical Chinese in which it was first written, while taking into account changes in our own language and eliminating any lingering infelicities. This beautiful edition includes an introduction by the well-known writer and scholar of philosophy and comparative religion, Jacob Needleman.

Lao Tsu's philosophy is simple: Accept what is in front of you without wanting the situation to be other than it is. Study the natural order of things and work with it rather than against it, for to try to change what is only sets up resistance. Nature provides everything without requiring payment or thanks. It does so without discrimination. So let us present the same face to everyone and treat them all as equals, however they may behave.

If we watch carefully, we will see that work proceeds more quickly and easily if we stop "trying", if we stop putting in so much extra effort, if we stop looking for results. In the clarity of a still and open mind, truth will be reflected. Te - which may be translated as "virtue" or "strength" - lies always in Tao meaning "the way" or "natural law". In other words: Simply be.

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