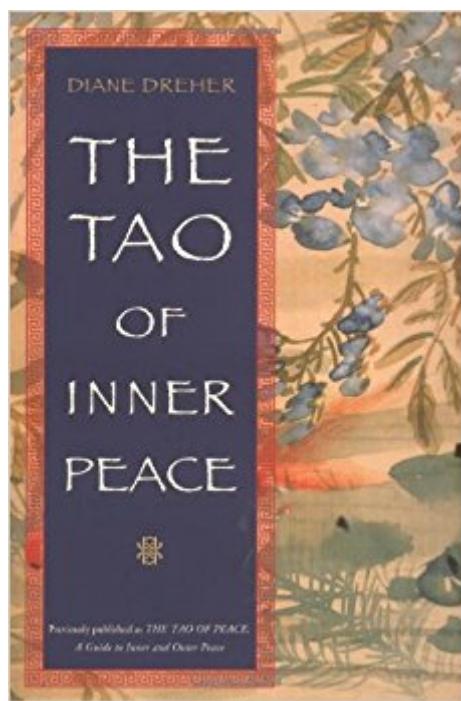


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# The Tao Of Inner Peace



## Synopsis

Translated more often than any other book except the Bible, the Tao Te Ching has been a spiritual guide for centuries, helping millions find peace within themselves, with each other, and with the natural world around them. Written in workbook style, complete with exercises, questionnaires, journal-keeping techniques, and affirmations, The Tao of Inner Peace translates the ancient Eastern philosophy into a plan for contemporary Western living. Diane Dreher, Ph.D., shows the way to: \* Bring greater joy, fulfillment, and creativity to daily life \* Heal the body and spirit \* Build self-acceptance and self-esteem \* Resolve conflict \* Reverse negative cycles of emotion \* Understand life as a process of changes and challenges With its lively, demystifying approach, The Tao of Inner Peace shows how the Tao can be a powerful source of growth, inspiration, and peace.

## Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Plume; Revised edition (November 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0452281997

ISBN-13: 978-0452281998

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (38 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #334,503 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 inÂ  Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts > Tao Te Ching #224 inÂ  Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts > Taoism #281 inÂ  Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Taoism

## Customer Reviews

Diane Dreher takes on a daunting task ... teaching modern human beings how to live a more harmonious life ... using ancient Chinese texts written by Lao Tzu. She does an admirable job and achieves her goal ... for the highly motivated reader. First, the book is divided into sections that cover the concepts in a logical sequence. Her divisions are I. "The Way: Then and Now", II. "The Inner Way", III. "The Way of Nature", IV. "The Way of Life, and V. "The Way of Peace". I like how she starts each chapter with a translation of a specific Chinese quote which illustrates the concepts and principles to be covered in the chapter. She amplifies the meaning of the text, bringing it up to date for modern consumption. The goal of her book is to help the reader become a "Tao person"

defined as "someone who recognizes and works with the patterns of nature." ">Read more <sup>9</sup>

I consider myself a student of Tao, having read Taoist classics including the Tao Te Ching, the I Ching, and the Chuang Tzu. I have also read the Tao of Pooh, Everyday Tao, and the Tao of Physics just to name a few. I also practice Tai Chi. Therefore, I cannot fully express the disappointment I felt while reading Dreher's the Tao of Inner Peace. Why? It did not seem to gel with Taoist principles. In fact, Dreher's presentation of Tao is hampered by a distinctly western perspective, more influenced by Hippie culture than by far eastern mysticism. Though Hippie culture is somewhat based on Zen, and Zen is based on Taoism, Hippie culture is not Taoism proper. In fact, at the closest, her presentation is Taoism twice removed. Although there are a few pearls of wisdom, they are hidden within what turns out to be a thinly veiled treatise on Green Party Politics. The book is hampered by militant political views. Though it is true that Lao Tzu wrote the Tao Te Ching to be a guide to proper leadership, that leadership is 1) by example, and 2) meant to be performed naturally and subtly. Dreher's politics, however, are blatant and combative, encouraging an activist role. Traditionally, Taoists are non-political and withdraw from public life. So it was with Chuang Tzu. Even Confucius, that pinnacle of ancient Chinese politics, after studying the I Ching and after meeting Lao Tzu looked back on his life with regret. He felt he had pushed to hard for law and order, and had not simply withdrew and lived the simple life free from chaos and disorder. The meditations in this book are also very western, having been directly selected from self-help guidelines. Thus, they are more 'new age' and 'trendy' than Taoist.

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