



Updated Edition
of the Most Popular English Translation
of Lao Tsu's Taoist Classic

Available in Paperback
November 1, 2011

TAO TE CHING

by

Lao Tsu

Translated by Gia-fu Feng and Jane English
with Toinette Lippe

Introduction by Jacob Needleman

Updated Translation

with Over 100 New Duotone Black-and-White Photographs

For nearly two generations, Gia-fu Feng and Jane English's 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. They have retained the simple clarity of the original rendering of a sometimes seemingly obtuse spiritual text, a clarity that has made this version a classic in itself, selling over a million copies.

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. We will come to appreciate the original meaning of the word "understand," which means "stand under." We need to serve whatever or whoever stands before us, without any thought for ourselves. *Te*—which may be translated as "virtue" or "strength"—lies always in *Tao*, meaning "the way" or "natural law." In other words: Simply be.

With its refreshed and revised translation and over a hundred new photographs, this is a must-have for those to whom the original edition was an icon of the spiritual and cultural history of the 1970s. It will also be welcomed by readers discovering its wonders for the very first time.

Jane English is available for select interviews to discuss the history
and continued vitality of this beloved text.

About the Authors

GIA-FU FENG was born in 1919 in Suzhou. He grew up in Shanghai and during World War II graduated from Peking University. He came to the United States in 1947 and earned a Master's degree at the Wharton School. In meeting Alan Watts in San Francisco and studying at the American Academy of Asian Studies, he found the path he had been seeking. He taught at Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California, and founded Stillpoint Foundation, a Taoist community in Colorado where he lived until his death in 1985.

JANE ENGLISH, whose photographs form an integral part of this book, was born in Boston. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College and received her doctorate in experimental high energy particle physics from the University of Wisconsin. Her other books and calendars include *Different Doorway: Adventures of a Caesarean Born*, *Fingers Pointing to the Moon*, the *Tao Calendar*, and the *Ice Wisdom Calendar*. She lives in Vermont. Her current work may be seen at www.eheart.com.

TOINETTE LIPPE worked at Alfred A. Knopf for more than thirty years. In 1989, she founded the Bell Tower imprint. Her own books include *Nothing Left Over: A Plain and Simple Life* and *Caught in the Act: Reflections on Being, Knowing, and Doing*. She now devotes herself to East Asian brush painting and her paintings and cards can be seen at www.toinettelippe.com.

JACOB NEEDLEMAN is professor emeritus of philosophy at San Francisco State University. Among his books are *Lost Christianity*, *The American Soul*, and *What Is God?* In addition to his teaching and writing, he serves as a consultant in the fields of psychology, education, medical ethics, and philanthropy, and he was featured on Bill Moyers's acclaimed PBS series, *A World of Ideas*. www.jacobneedleman.com.

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