

老子道德經

TAO

2024 CALENDAR


道德經



Selections from *Tao Te Ching* and *Chuang Tsu*

GIA-FU FENG & JANE ENGLISH



A photograph of a snowy landscape. A path of footprints leads from the top right towards the center. The snow is white with some shadows. There are some dry, brown bushes and grasses sticking out of the snow. In the top left corner, there is vertical Chinese text.

執事天下往往而不害安乎天樂而餅過之可也  
為之出口淡乎天無味視之不足見聽之不足聞用之不足洗

Everyone is drawn to those who keep to the one,  
For there lie rest and happiness and peace.



JANUARY 2024

December 2023							February 2024						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
					1	2					1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29		
31													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2	3  ● 10:30 pm EST	4	5	6 Epiphany (Christian)
7 Christmas (Orthodox Christian)	8	9	10	11  ● 6:57 am EST	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16 Religious Freedom Day	17  ● 10:52 pm EST	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Tu B'Shevat (Jewish) <sup>1</sup>  ○ 12:54 pm EST	26 Australia Day	27 Holocaust Remembrance Day (International)
28	29	30	31			

Everyone is drawn to those who keep to the one,  
For there lie rest and happiness and peace.  
  
Passersby may stop for music and good food,  
But it is not possible to describe the Tao.  
Without substance or flavor,  
It cannot be seen, it cannot be heard,  
And yet it cannot be exhausted.  
  
—*Tao Te Ching, Chapter Thirty-Five*





大生用周や七南圃をて書実  
其覺や形南と指申構ひに例やうきやうき山脈や魂交  
縷々密々密々小止端端大止縷々若机括  
去り日を以て之也云田水沮泥也守脉之記や  
之報若秋冬以言去日清や天溺之所あり  
石の便後之や天厭や水緘以言去老血や  
近死之心尊信後陽や喜怒哀床慮歎憂愁心  
恍惚然能生虫出露三焦内相和成乎有り  
亡水由以生乎而草木を天賦なりと云ふは牛

*Joy and anger, hope and fear, like mushrooms rising  
from the warm, dark earth, continually appear before us.*

No one knows whence they come.

*Let them be! How can we understand it all in one day?*



# FEBRUARY 2024

January 2024							March 2024						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
	1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
28	29	30	31				24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1Imbolc (Pagan/Wiccan)	2Groundhog Day  ☾ 6:18 pm EST	3
4	5	6Waitangi Day (New Zealand)	7	8	9  ● 5:59 pm EST	10Lunar New Year (Dragon)
11	12	13Mardi Gras	14Ash Wednesday, Lent begins (Christian) Valentine's Day	15Flag Day (Canada) Nirvana Day (Buddhist)	16  ☾ 10:01 am EST	17Random Acts of Kindness Day
18	19Presidents' Day	20	21	22	23	24  ☾ 7:30 am EST
25	26	27	28	29Leap Day		

Great knowledge is all-encompassing; small knowledge is limited. Great words are inspiring; small words are chatter. When we are asleep, we are in touch with our souls. When we are awake, our senses open. We get involved with our activities, and our minds are distracted. Sometimes we are hesitant, sometimes underhanded, and sometimes secretive. Little fears cause anxiety, and great fears cause panic. Our words fly off like arrows, as though we knew what was right and wrong. We cling to our own point of view, as though everything depended on it.

And yet our opinions have no permanence; like autumn and winter, they gradually pass away. We are caught in the current and cannot return. We are tied up in knots like an old clogged drain; we are getting closer to death with no way to regain our youth. Joy and anger, sorrow and happiness, hope and fear, indecision and strength, humility and willfulness, enthusiasm and insolence, like music sounding from an empty reed or mushrooms rising from the warm, dark earth, continually appear before us day and night. No one knows whence they come. Don't worry about it! Let them be! How can we understand it all in one day?

— Chuang Tsu, Chapter Two





匠石之斲也玉字曲隈  
見櫟社樹其大蔽數千牛  
却紫之百圍其高臨宇仞而又有枝  
其為舟車旁計數歡在無市  
匠伯不顧家也行不綴  
乃子厭歡之去及匠石曰  
自吾執斧斤以隨夫子未嘗見材如此其美也  
先步不目視行不綴何邪  
曰是矣子言之未遇木也一而舟則以為棺槨則速腐  
以為器則速毀以為門戶則液腐以為柱則蠹日之朽之木也  
无所可用故能若此之壽

That tree is useless. It is worthless timber and is of no use.  
That is why it has reached such a ripe old age.



# MARCH 2024

February 2024							April 2024						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
				1	2	3		1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
25	26	27	28	29			28	29	30				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 International Women's Day Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)	9
10 Daylight Saving Time begins Mother's Day (UK)	11 Ramadan begins (Islamic) <sup>2</sup>	12	13	14	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Great Lent (Orthodox Christian)	19 Ostara (Pagan/Wiccan) Spring Equinox 11:06 pm EDT	20 Naw-Ruz (Bahá'í & Persian New Year)	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday (Christian) Purim (Jewish) <sup>1</sup>	25 Holi (Hindu) Penumbral lunar eclipse 3:13 am EDT <sup>3</sup>	26	27	28	29 Good Friday (Christian)	30
31 British Summer Time begins (UK) Easter (Christian)	○ 3:00 am EDT					

Shih the carpenter was on his way to the state of Chi. When he got to Chu Yuan, he saw an oak tree by the village shrine. The tree was large enough to shade several thousand oxen and was a hundred spans around. It towered above the hilltops with its lowest branches eighty feet from the ground. More than ten of its branches were big enough to be made into boats. There were crowds of people as in a marketplace. The master carpenter did not even turn his head but walked on without stopping.


His apprentice took a long look, then ran after Shih the carpenter and said, “Since I took up my ax and followed you, master, I have never seen timber as beautiful as this. But you do not even bother to look at it, and walk on without stopping. Why is this?”

Shih the carpenter replied, “Stop! Say no more! That tree is useless. A boat made from it would sink, a coffin would soon rot, a tool would split, a door would ooze sap, and a beam would have termites. It is worthless timber and is of no use. That is why it has reached such a ripe old age.”

—Chuang Tsu, Chapter Four





A photograph of a forest at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and grey, with a faint rainbow visible in the upper center. The foreground is filled with the dark, silhouetted branches of evergreen trees. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

持而盈之不如其已揣而稅之不可長保  
金玉滿堂莫之能守富貴而驕自遺其咎  
功遂身退天之道

*Retire when the work is done.  
This is the way of heaven.*



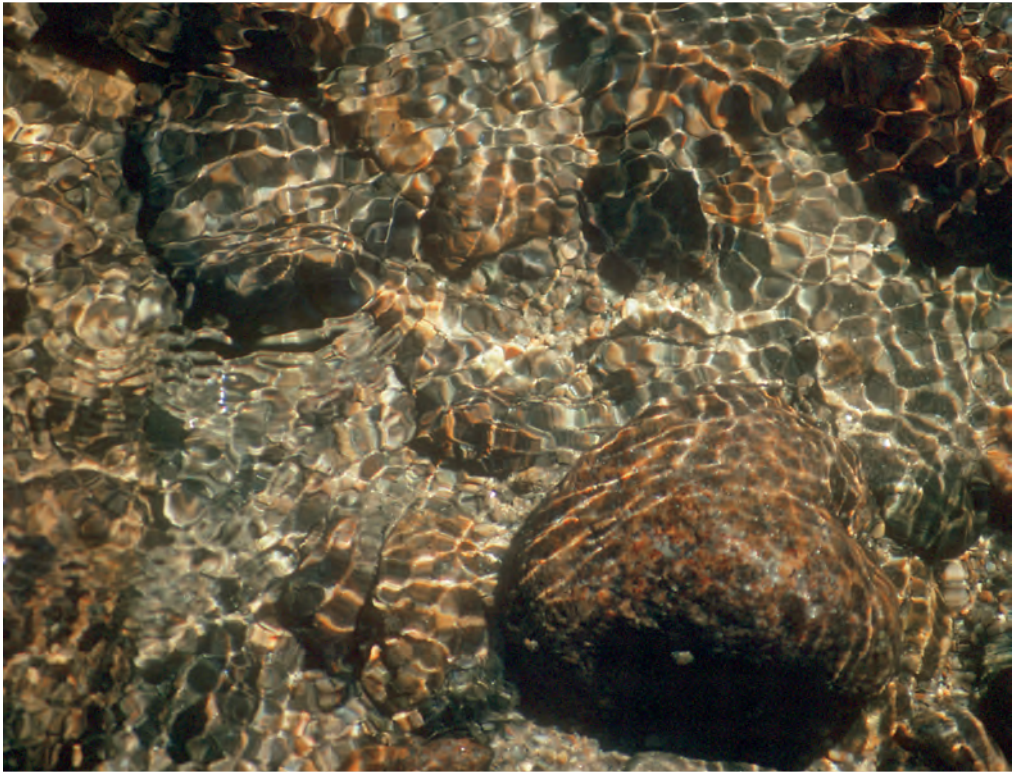
APRIL 2024

March 2024							May 2024						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
					1	2				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	
31													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 April Fools' Day Easter Monday (Australia, Canada, UK) Mercury retrograde until April 25  ☾ 11:15 pm EDT	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Total solar eclipse 2:17 pm EDT <sup>3</sup>  ● 2:21 pm EDT	9	10 Eid al-Fitr (Islamic) <sup>2</sup>	11	12	13
14	15  ☾ 3:13 pm EDT	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Earth Day	23 Passover begins (Jewish) <sup>1</sup>  ○ 7:49 pm EDT	24	25 ANZAC Day (Australia, New Zealand)	26 Arbor Day	27 Freedom Day (South Africa)
28 Palm Sunday (Orthodox Christian)	29	30				

Better stop short than fill to the brim.  
Oversharpen the blade, and the edge will soon blunt.  
Amass a store of gold and jade, and no one can protect it.  
Claim wealth and titles, and disaster will follow.  
Retire when the work is done.  
This is the way of heaven.

—Tao Te Ching, Chapter Nine









# MAY 2024

April 2024							June 2024						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
	1	2	3	4	5	6							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Beltane (Pagan/Wiccan) May Day  ☾ 7:27 am EDT	2	3	4
5 Cinco de Mayo Pascha (Orthodox Christian)	6 Early May Bank Holiday (UK) Yom HaShoah (Jewish) <sup>1</sup>	7  ● 11:22 pm EDT	8	9 Ascension (Christian)	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15  ☾ 7:48 am EDT	16	17 Bike to Work Day	18 Armed Forces Day
19 Pentecost (Christian)	20 Victoria Day (Canada, Scotland)	21	22	23 Vesak (Buddhist)  ☾ 9:53 am EDT	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day Spring Bank Holiday (UK)	28 Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í) <sup>1</sup>	29	30  ☾ 1:13 pm EDT	31	

“How can I tell if love of life is not a delusion? How can I tell whether a person who fears death is not like a person who has left home and dreads returning? . . . How can I tell whether the dead are not amazed that they ever clung to life?

“Those who dream of a great feast may weep the next morning. Those who dream of weeping may enjoy the hunt the next day. While they dream, they do not know they are dreaming. They may even interpret their dreams while still dreaming. Only after they awake do they know it was a dream. By and by, there will be a great awakening; then we will know that this is all a great dream. All the while, the fools think they are awake, appearing to understand things, calling this one ‘ruler’ and that one ‘herdsman.’ How stupid! You and Confucius are both dreaming. When I say you are dreaming, I am dreaming too. These words may sound like double-talk. Yet after ten thousand generations, we will meet a great wise one who can explain all this. Or it may happen any time now.”

—Chuang Tzu, Chapter Two





以指喻指之能指也若以指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也  
天地一指也万物一也此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也  
物之指也此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也  
不此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也  
无物不此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也  
魔由它指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也此指喻指之能指也

*A thing has a name because of its being called something.*

*Why is it like this? Because it is!*

*Why is it not like that? Because it is not!*



JUNE 2024

May 2024							July 2024						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
			1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		28	29	30	31			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 World Environment Day	6  ● 8:38 am EDT	7	8
9	10	11	12 Shavuot (Jewish) <sup>1</sup>	13 Ascension (Orthodox Christian)	14 Flag Day  ● 1:18 am EDT	15
16 Father's Day	17 Eid al-Adha (Islamic) <sup>2</sup>	18	19 Juneteenth	20 Litha (Pagan/Wiccan) Summer Solstice 4:51 pm EDT World Refugee Day	21  ○ 9:08 pm EDT	22
23 Pentecost (Orthodox Christian)	24 St. Jean-Baptiste Day (Quebec)	25	26	27	28  ● 5:53 pm EDT	29
30						


To use one’s fingers to demonstrate fingers not being fingers is not as good as using something else to demonstrate fingers not being fingers. Using horses to demonstrate horses not being horses is not as good as using something else to demonstrate horses not being horses. “Heaven and earth” are like a finger; “the ten thousand things” are like a horse.

What is acceptable is acceptable; what is not acceptable is not acceptable. A path is formed by walking on it. A thing has a name because of its being called something. Why is it like this? Because it is! Why is it not like that? Because it is not! Everything has its own nature and its own function. Nothing is without nature or function. Consider a small stalk or a great column, a leper or a beauty, things that are great or wicked, perverse, and strange. They are all one in Tao.

—Chuang Tsu, Chapter Two







上善若水水善利萬物而不爭處眾人之所惡  
故幾於道居善地心善淵與善仁言善信正善治  
事善能動善時夫唯不爭故無尤

*In dwelling, be close to the land.  
In meditation, go deep in the heart.*



JULY 2024

June 2024							August 2024						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
						1					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <small>Canada Day</small>	2	3	4 <small>Independence Day</small>	5  ● 6:57 pm EDT	6 <small>Dalai Lama's Birthday (1935)</small>
7 <small>Muharram (Islamic New Year)<sup>2</sup></small>	8	9	10	11	12 <small>Orangemen's Day (Northern Ireland)</small>	13  ● 6:49 pm EDT
14 <small>Bastille Day (France)</small>	15	16 <small>Ashurah (Islamic)<sup>2</sup></small>	17	18	19	20
21  ○ 6:17 am EDT	22	23	24	25	26	27  ● 10:52 pm EDT
28	29	30	31			

The highest good is like water.  
Water gives life to the ten thousand things and does not strive.  
It flows in places people reject and so is like the Tao.

In dwelling, be close to the land.  
In meditation, go deep in the heart.  
In dealing with others, be gentle and kind.  
In speech, be true.  
In ruling, be just.  
In business, be competent.  
In action, watch the timing.

No fight: No blame.

—Tao Te Ching, Chapter Eight





曲則全枉則直窪則盈敝則新少則得多則惑  
是以知人抱一為天下式不自見故明不自是故彰不自伐故有功  
不自矜故長夫唯不爭故天下莫能與之爭  
古之所謂曲則全者豈虛言哉誠全而歸之

*Be truly whole,  
And all things will come to you.*



# AUGUST 2024

July 2024							September 2024						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				29	30					

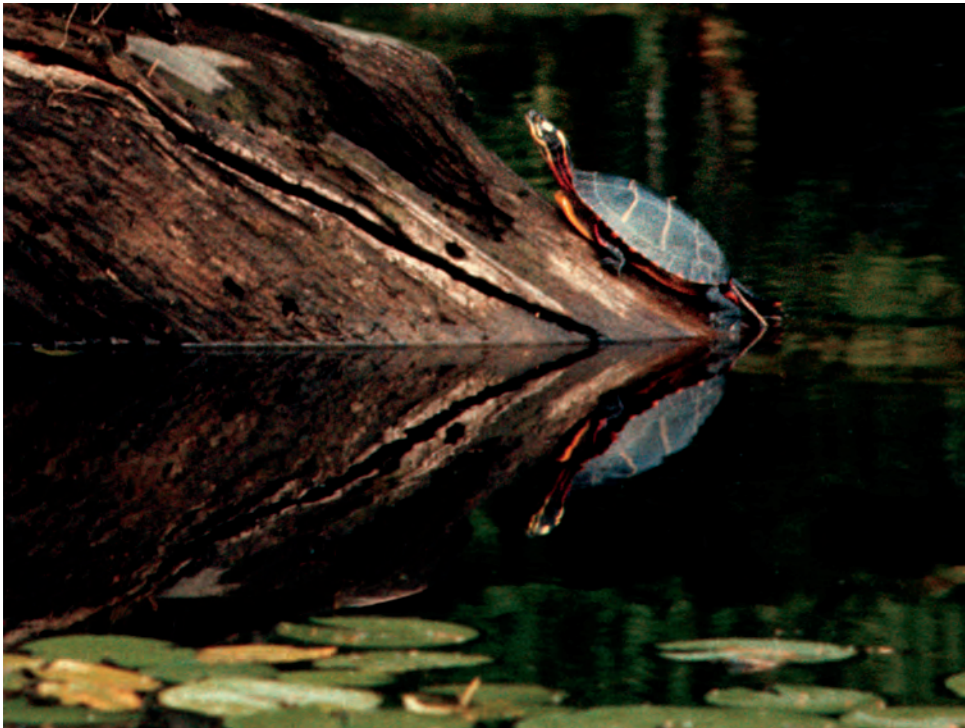
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1Lughnasadh (Pagan/Wiccan)	2	3
4Mercury retrograde until August 28	5August Bank Holiday (Scotland) Civic Holiday (Canada)	6	7	8	9	10
● 7:13 am EDT						
11	12	13Tisha B'Av (Jewish) <sup>1</sup>	14	15Dormition of the Theotokos (Orthodox Christian)	16	17
	● 11:19 am EDT					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	○ 2:26 pm EDT					
25	26Summer Bank Holiday (UK) Women's Equality Day	27	28	29	30	31
	● 5:26 am EDT					

Yield and overcome; bend and be straight;  
Empty and be full; wear out and be new;  
Have little and gain; have much and be confused.


Therefore the wise embrace the one and set an example to all.  
Not putting on a display, they shine forth.  
Not justifying themselves, they are distinguished.  
Not boasting, they receive recognition.  
Not bragging, they never falter.  
They do not quarrel, so no one quarrels with them.

Therefore the ancients say, "Yield and overcome."  
Is that an empty saying?  
Be truly whole, and all things will come to you.

—Tao Te Ching, Chapter Twenty-Two







不出戶知天下不闢牖見天道其出弥遠其知弥少  
以是聖人不行而知不見而名不為而成

*Without going outside, you may know the whole world.*

*Without looking through the window, you may see the ways of heaven.*



# SEPTEMBER 2024

August 2024							October 2024						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
				1	2	3			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day (USA, Canada)  ● 9:55 pm EDT	3	4	5	6 Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)	7
8 Grandparents Day	9	10	11 Patriot Day  ● 2:06 am EDT	12	13	14
15	16 Independence Day (Mexico)	17 Mid-Autumn Festival (Asian) Partial lunar eclipse 10:44 pm EDT <sup>3</sup>  ○ 10:34 pm EDT	18	19	20	21 International Day of Peace
22 Autumnal Equinox 8:44 am EDT Mabon (Pagan/Wiccan)	23	24  ● 2:50 pm EDT	25	26	27	28
29	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Canada)					

Without going outside, you may know the whole world.  
Without looking through the window, you may see the ways of heaven.  
The farther you go, the less you know.  
  
Thus the wise know without traveling;  
See without looking;  
Work without doing.  
  
—*Tao Te Ching, Chapter Forty-Seven*





知人者智自知者明勝人者有力自勝者強  
知足者富強顏者有志死而不避者壽



*Those who know they have enough are rich.*



# OCTOBER 2024

September 2024							November 2024						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
1	2	3	4	5	6	7						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Annular solar eclipse 2:45 pm EDT <sup>3</sup>  ● 2:49 pm EDT	3 Navaratri begins (Hindu) Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) <sup>1</sup>	4	5
6	7	8	9	10  ● 2:55 pm EDT	11	12 Yom Kippur (Jewish) <sup>1</sup>
13	14 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day Thanksgiving (Canada)	15	16	17 Sukkot begins (Jewish) <sup>1</sup>  ○ 7:26 am EDT	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 United Nations Day  ● 4:03 am EDT	25 Simchat Torah (Jewish) <sup>1</sup>	26
27 British Summer Time ends (UK)	28	29	30	31 Halloween Samhain (Pagan/Wiccan)		

Knowing others is wisdom;  
Knowing the self is enlightenment.  
Mastering others requires force;  
Mastering the self needs strength.

Those who know they have enough are rich.  
Perseverance is a sign of willpower.  
Those who stay where they are endure.  
To die but not to perish is to be eternally present.

—*Tao Te Ching, Chapter Thirty-Three*





治大國若烹小鮮以道莅天下其鬼不神非其鬼不神  
其神不傷人非其神不傷人聖人亦不傷人  
夫物不相傷故德至歸焉

*The Virtue in each of us refreshes everyone.*



# NOVEMBER 2024

October 2024							December 2024						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 All Saints' Day (Christian) Day of the Dead (Mexico) Diwali (Hindu)  ● 8:47 am EDT	2 All Souls' Day (Christian) Birth of the Báb (Bahá'í) <sup>1</sup>
3 Birth of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í) <sup>1</sup> Daylight Saving Time ends	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8	9   ● 12:56 am EST
10	11 Remembrance Day (Australia, Canada, UK) Veterans Day	12	13	14	15   ○ 4:29 pm EST	16
17	18	19	20	21	22   ● 8:28 pm EST	23
24	25 Mercury retrograde until December 15	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30 St. Andrew's Day (Scotland)

Ruling the country is like cooking a small fish.  
Approach the universe with Tao,  
And evil will have no power.  
Not that evil is not powerful,  
But its power will not be used to harm others.  
Not only will it do no harm to others,  
But the wise will also be protected.  
We will not hurt one another,  
And the Virtue in each of us refreshes everyone.

—Tao Te Ching, Chapter Sixty





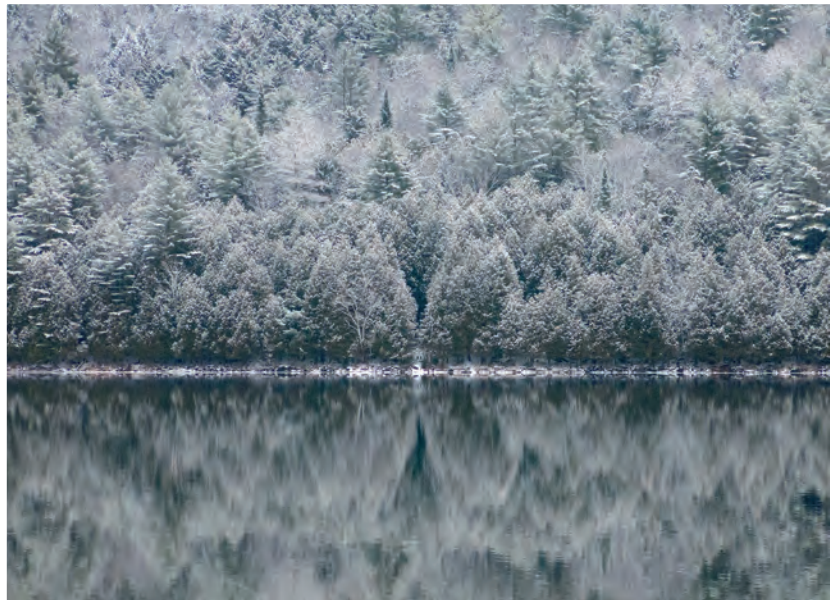




DECEMBER 2024

November 2024							January 2025						
s	m	t	w	t	f	s	s	m	t	w	t	f	s
					1	2				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent begins (Christian)  ● 1:21 am EST	2	3	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
8 Bodhi Day (Buddhist)  ● 10:27 am EST	9	10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14
15  ○ 4:02 am EST	16	17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice 4:20 am EST Yule (Pagan/Wiccan)
22  ● 5:18 pm EST	23	24	25 Christmas	26 Boxing Day (Australia, Canada, UK) Hanukkah begins (Jewish) <sup>1</sup> Kwanzaa begins (African American)	27	28
29	30  ● 5:27 pm EST	31 New Year's Eve				



The next day the two went again to see Hu Tsu. As the diviner left, he said, “Your master is never the same. I have no way to read his face. Wait until he settles down, then I shall examine him again.”

Lieh Tsu went in and told Hu Tsu. Hu Tsu said, “I have just shown him the ultimate harmony, where there is perfect balance. Probably all he saw was the depths of my vital energy in its perfection. When the waves swirl in a torrent, there are dark depths. When the water is still, there are dark depths. When the water flows, there are also dark depths. There are nine names for the dark depths. I demonstrated only three of them. Try to bring him again.”

The next day the two came to see Hu Tsu again. Before they even sat down, the diviner lost his nerve and fled. “Run after him!” Hu Tsu said.

Lieh Tsu ran but could not catch up with the diviner, so he returned and said to Hu Tsu, “He has disappeared. He is gone. I could not find him.”

Hu Tsu said, “I just showed him what existed before the beginning of things. Completely open and yielding, I showed myself, without a care, like grass bending before the wind and water flowing in waves. That is why he ran away.”

Whereupon Lieh Tsu realized that he had not yet begun to understand. He went home, and for the next three years he did not go out. He did the cooking for his wife and fed the pigs as though they were human. He took no interest in worldly affairs. He stopped making complications and returned to simplicity. Rooted in the earth and centered in his body, amid all the confusion and distractions of life, he remained one with Tao until the end of his days.



The Tao Te Ching, the esoteric but infinitely practical book written most probably in the sixth century BCE by Lao Tsu, has been translated more frequently than any work except the Bible.

Lao Tsu, an older contemporary of Confucius, was keeper of the imperial archives at Luoyang in the province of Henan, China. All his life he taught that “the Tao that can be told is not the eternal Tao”; but according to ancient legend, as he was riding off into the desert to die — sick at heart at the ways of men — a gatekeeper in northwestern China persuaded him to write down his teachings for posterity.

The essence of Taoism is contained in the book’s 81 chapters (roughly 5,000 words). For 2,500 years the Tao Te Ching has provided one of the major underlying influences in Chinese thought and culture, emerging also in proverbs and folklore. Whereas Confucianism is concerned with day-to-day rules of conduct, Taoism is concerned with a more spiritual level of being.

This calendar features selections from the best-selling translation of the Tao Te Ching by Gia-fu Feng and Jane English, along with selections from their edition of *Chuang Tsu: Inner Chapters*. Both books feature Feng’s calligraphy and English’s photographs.

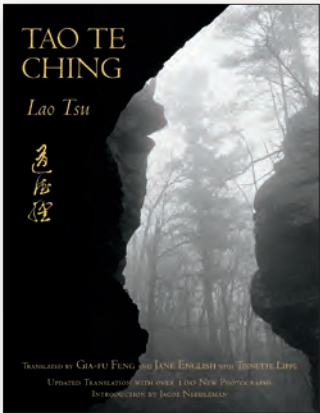
**Gia-fu Feng**, born in Suzhou in 1919 and educated in China, came to the United States in 1947 to study comparative religion. He held a BA from Peking University and an MA from the University of Pennsylvania. He taught at the Esalen Institute

*Chuang Tsu: Inner Chapters* is a companion volume to the Tao Te Ching. Very little is known about Chuang Tsu, and what is known is inextricably woven into legend. It is said that he was a contemporary of Mencius, an official in the Lacquer Garden of Meng in the Henan province around the fourth century BCE. Chuang Tsu was to Lao Tsu as Saint Paul was to Jesus Christ and Plato to Socrates.

While other philosophers were busying themselves with the practical matters of government and rules of conduct, Chuang Tsu transcended the *wang cheng* (the illusory dust of the world), thus anticipating Zen Buddhism’s emphasis on a state of emptiness or ego transcendence. With humor, imagery, and fantasy, he captured the depth of Chinese thinking. Scholars accept the seven chapters presented in this translation as definitely being the work of Chuang Tsu. Another twenty-six chapters are of questionable origin; they are interpretations of his teachings and may have been added by later commentators.

in Big Sur, California, and directed the Stillpoint Foundation, a Taoist community located in Wetmore, Colorado. Feng died in 1985.

**Jane English** was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1942. She attended Mount Holyoke College and received her doctorate in physics from the University of Wisconsin in 1970. Her books include *Different Doorway: Adventures of a Caesarean Born*, *Fingers Pointing to the Moon*, and translations of the Tao Te Ching and *Chuang Tsu: Inner Chapters*, the two books she and Feng collaborated on.



## Tao Te Ching

by Lao Tsu

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

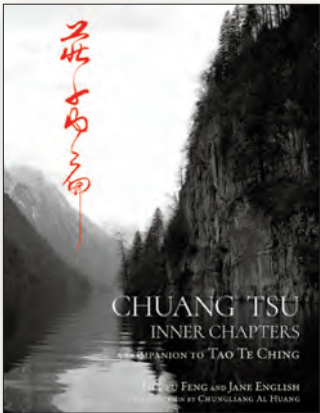
Introduction by Jacob Needleman  
Photographs by Jane English

*No one has done better in conveying Lao Tsu’s simple and laconic style of writing, so as to produce an English version almost as suggestive of the many meanings intended.* — Alan W. Watts

The philosophy of Lao Tsu 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, not against it, for to try to change what is only sets up resistance. Nature provides without requiring payment or thanks, without discrimination; therefore, let us present the same face to everyone and treat all as equals, however they may behave.

This translation eliminates gender-specific language and other infelicities and is accompanied by new photographs by Jane English.

Published by Vintage Books: [vintageanchor.com](http://vintageanchor.com)



## Chuang Tsu: Inner Chapters

A companion to Tao Te Ching

Translated into English  
by Gia-fu Feng and Jane English

Introduction by Chungliang Al Huang  
Photographs by Jane English

*Chuang Tsu helps us to take all serious matters lightly, and encourages us to be the “Laughing Philosopher.”*  
— Chungliang Al Huang

*Chuang Tsu: Inner Chapters* is a companion volume to Gia-fu Feng and Jane English’s translation of the Tao Te Ching, which has enjoyed great success since its publication in 1972.

This edition of *Chuang Tsu: Inner Chapters* includes many new photographs by Jane English and is an updated version of the translation originally published in 1974. Like the original Chinese version, this version uses gender-neutral language wherever possible.

At the time this 2024 calendar goes to press in early 2023, Gia-fu Feng and Jane English’s edition of *Chuang Tsu: Inner Chapters* is out of print. It will be republished in 2024 by DaoDog Press, publishers of *Empty Vessel: Journal of Taoist Philosophy & Practice* ([emptyvessel.net](http://emptyvessel.net)).

Visit [eheart.com](http://eheart.com) for information about obtaining your copy of the **2025 Tao calendar**.



# a RAINBOW of TAO

by Jane English

co-creator (with Gia-fu Feng) of editions of the Tao Te Ching  
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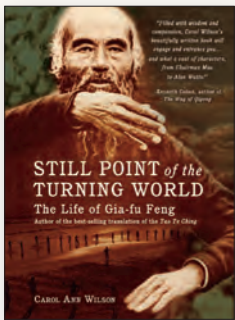
A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this calendar will be donated to the Living Tao Foundation, a nonprofit educational network founded by Chungliang Al Huang, an internationally respected tai chi master and authority on East-West cultural synthesis. Living Tao's mission is to correlate Eastern philosophies, physical disciplines, and fine arts with those of the West.

[livingtao.org](http://livingtao.org)

Also available at  
[eheart.com](http://eheart.com)



I Ching Yarrow Stalks  
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Still Point of the Turning World:  
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<sup>§</sup> CO<sub>2</sub> removed annually based on 34.6 lbs. estimated per tree. Number provided by our tree-planting partner, Trees for the Future. Visit [trees.org](http://trees.org) for more info.

<sup>‡</sup> Estimates created using the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator v4.0 and our 2022 production numbers. In addition to the number of trees used, the calculator estimates the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> generated by paper usage. During 2023, our CO<sub>2</sub> generation is estimated to be 1,635 tons. Visit [papercalculator.org](http://papercalculator.org) for more info.

The holidays listed in this calendar are accurate to the best of our knowledge and research.

All times in this calendar are given in Eastern Standard Time (EST), which is noted as Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) during Daylight Saving Time.

● New moon    ○ First quarter moon    ○ Full moon    ● Last quarter moon

1. Jewish and Bahá'í holidays begin at sundown the evening before the date given.
2. Islamic holidays begin at sundown the evening before the date given. The Islamic calendar is based on lunar observation and thus may vary depending upon the sighting of the crescent moon. Dates apply to North America.
3. Solar and lunar eclipses are not viewable from all regions.

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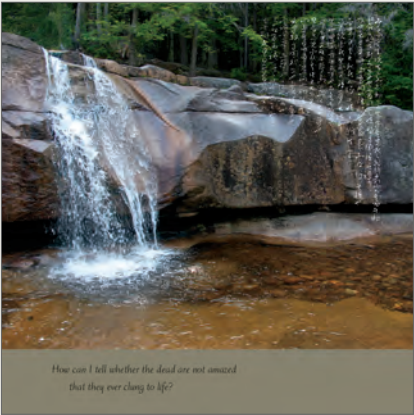


# TAO

SELECTIONS FROM TAO TE CHING  
AND CHUANG TSU

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JANE ENGLISH • CALLIGRAPHY BY GIA-FU FENG

The Tao Te Ching, the esoteric but infinitely practical book written in the sixth century BCE by Lao Tsu, has been translated more times than any work except the Bible. For centuries, artists, poets, painters, and even gardeners have used the Tao Te Ching as a source of inspiration and guidance. The Tao wall calendar features contemplative nature photographs, gracefully stylized Chinese calligraphy, and translations of the Tao Te Ching and Chuang Tsu's *Inner Chapters*.



How can I tell whether the dead are not amazed  
that they ever clung to life?



The Virtue in each of us refreshes everyone.



That tree is useless. It is worthless timber and is of no use.  
That is why it has reached such a ripe old age.



A thing has a name because of its being called something.  
Why is it like that? Because it is!  
Why is it not like that? Because it is not!



In dwelling, be close to the land  
In meditation, go deep to the heart.



Joy and anger, hope and fear, the mindless rising  
from the warm, dark earth, continually appear before us.  
We are born where they come.  
Let them be! How can we understand it all in one day?



Rooted in the earth and centered in his body amid all the confusion and distraction of life,  
he remained one with Tao until the end of his days.



Retire when the work is done.  
This is the way of heaven.

sample text:

Those who know  
they have enough  
are rich.



Those who know they have enough are rich.



Everyone is drawn to those who keep to the one.  
For there he rest and happiness and peace.



Without going outside, you may know the whole world.  
Without looking through the window, you may see the ways of heaven.



Be truly whole.  
And all things will come to you.

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This calendar features public holidays in the US, Australia, Canada, and the UK; moon phases; and important observances of the world's major religions.

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Text & calligraphy © Jane English & Carol Wilson  
A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this calendar will be donated to the Living Tao Foundation.

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