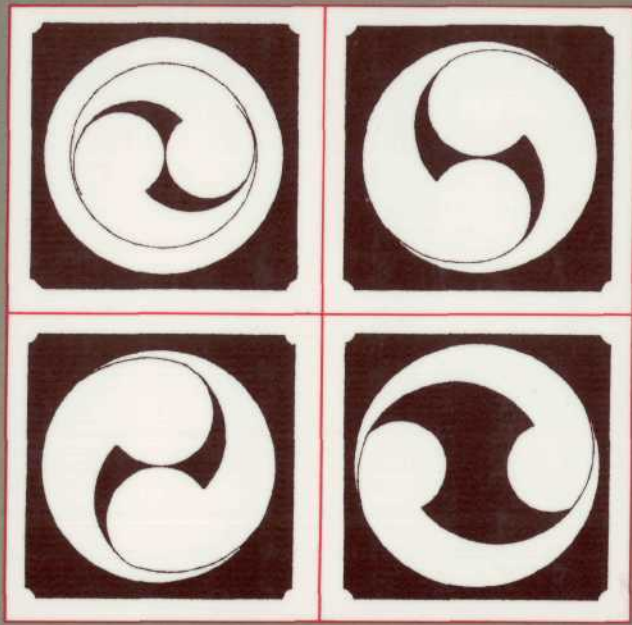


---

THE

**TAO TE**

---



---

**CHING**

A NEW TRANSLATION  
WITH COMMENTARY

---

ELLEN M. CHEN

THE TAO TE CHING  
A NEW TRANSLATION WITH COMMENTARY

# The *Tao Te Ching*

---

A New Translation  
with Commentary

---

ELLEN M. CHEN

A NEW ERA BOOK



PARAGON HOUSE  
St. Paul, Minnesota



# CONTENTS

---

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<b>The <i>Tao Te Ching</i>: An Introduction</b>	3
<b>1. Date and Authorship of the <i>Tao Te Ching</i></b>	4
Name, Birthplace, and Occupation of Lao Tzu	6
Lao Tzu's Meeting with Confucius	6
How the <i>Tao Te Ching</i> Came to Be Written	10
Other Identities of Lao Tzu and an Account of His Descendants	12
The Rivalry Between Confucianism and Taoism and Lao Tzu's Central Teaching	15
Conclusion	18
<b>2. The <i>Tao Te Ching</i> as a Religious Treatise</b>	22
The Function and Role of Early Religions	24
Religions of the Axial Period	27
Humans Become Gods on Earth	31
Two Pseudo-Religions of the Twentieth Century	34
Religion For or Against Life	36
The Vision of Peace in the <i>Tao Te Ching</i>	40
<b>3. Use and Translation of the Text</b>	43
The Title	43
The Oldest <i>Tao Te Ching</i> Texts	44

First edition, 1989

Published in the United States by

Paragon House  
2700 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55114

Copyright © 1989 by Paragon House

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the publishers, unless by a reviewer who wishes to quote brief passages

A New Ecumenical Research Association Book

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Catalog-in-Publication Data

Chen, Ellen M., 1933-  
The idea of peace in classical Taoism.  
"A New ERA Book"  
Bibliography: p.  
Includes index.  
1. Lao Tzu. Tao te ching. 2. Peace.  
i. Title

BL 1900.L35C5432 1989 299.51482 88-22433  
ISBN 1-55778-238-5 (pbk.)

The Paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1984.

Division into Parts and Chapters	45
Various Arrangements of the Text	46
The Need for a New Translation	47
On the Transliteration of the Chinese	47
<b>The <i>Tao Te Ching</i>: A New Translation and Commentary</b>	<b>49</b>
Chapters 1 through 81	51
<i>Bibliography</i>	233
<i>Chinese Glossary</i>	247
<i>Index</i>	261