

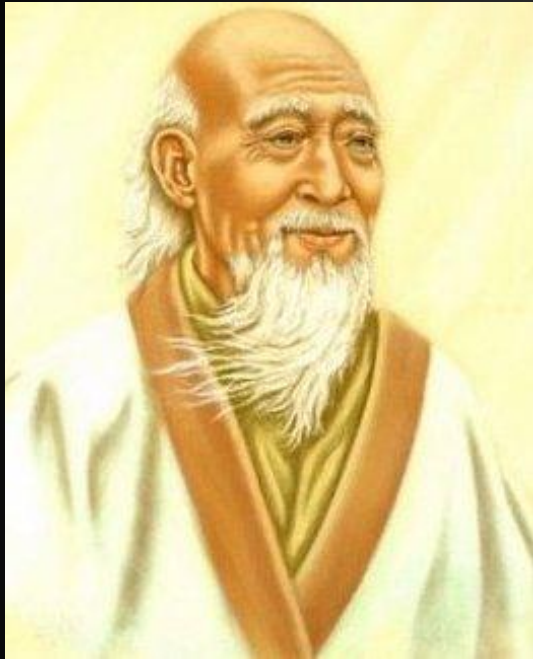


Daoism (Taoism)

Seth Opladen, Robert Long, Braxton
Madison

Origin Of Daoism

- Daoism(Taoism) originated in China in 604-531 B.C.E.
- Daoism philosophical beliefs developed during the Era of Warring States
- It was founded by Lao-tzu (Loazi)
 - Some believe that Lao-tzu is just a mythical character
- Lao-tzu wanted to find a way to avoid wars and conflict in society
- He searched for answers and put them in his book Tao-te Ching which is the main text of Daoism



Lao-tzu

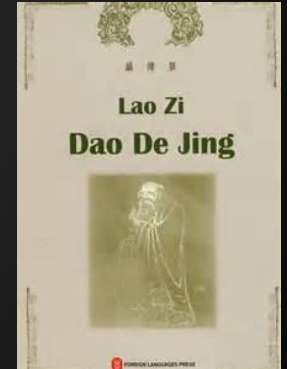
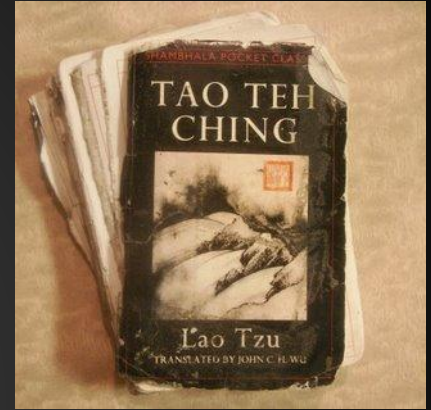


Tao-te Ching



Spiritual Texts

- Tao-te Ching (Dao De Jing)
 - “The book of way and power”
 - Written by Laozi
 - A guide for rulers and established the way for Taoism
 - Many universal truths
 - Focus on nature
- Yi Jing
 - “Book of changes”
 - Tool used to predict future actions

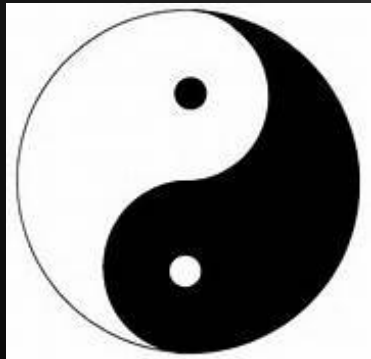


Daoism Beliefs and Practices

The entire religion of daoism is centered around the belief of order and harmony. For this reason, most of the daoist practices and rituals regard the achieving of peace and harmony. For example, separate villages would have congregations with meditations, purifications, and even offerings. Music and chants are also large parts of these rituals. Other than these individual congregations, daoist communities also participate in the chiao/jiao. This is a larger activity made up of numerous rituals including giving offerings to local deities all done in order to “renew the dao connection”.

Yin and Yang

- Yin and Yang represent the balance of opposites
- They come from a myth
 - The Dao(the essence of all) gave birth to nature
 - Nature(the one) gave birth to Yin and Yang(the two)
- Yin and Yang are opposite in every way but are perfectly balanced
- This concept of balance is applied to everything
 - ex. Martial Arts, Life



Yin vs. Yang

- female
- cold
- moist
- the moon
- winter
- water
- shadow

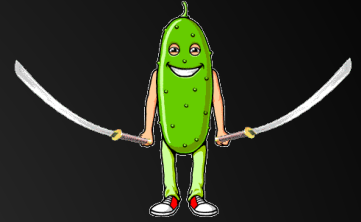
- male
- hot
- dry
- the sun
- summer
- earth
- brightness



Daoism and Confucianism

- Both founders, Lao-tzu and Confucius, lived and taught in 6th Century B.C.
- Daoism and Confucianism are both philosophical beliefs that originated during the Era of Warring States in China
- the goals of both philosophies was to bring order to China
- Daoism believes that with time the natural balance of the universe will resolve the problems in China
- Confucianism believes that in order to resolve the problems in China, China needs:
 - well educated and responsible government officials
 - filial piety(respect for one's parents and elders)
- Both Daoism and Confucianism believe in the Dao(Tao)- "The Way"

Dao(the way)

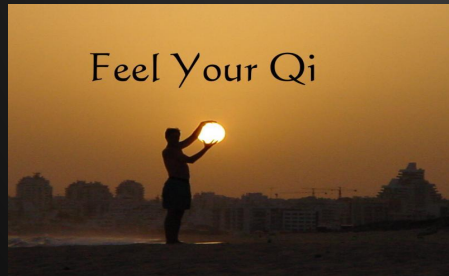


- Eternal concept of a deity
- No beginning. No end
- Oldest thing in the universe due to no beginning.
- Does not control universe but creates it
- Nor good, nor evil
- Says to act upon instinct
- Do not act to get a specific result, just act
- Deals with nature



Daoism of Celestial Masters

- 142 A.D. New sect of Daoism comes into being
- Shows that Daoism is growing
- “The Chosen People”
- Energy source “qi” that pervades all things
- Illness was caused by loss of qi in the body
- Semen is the embodiment of qi
- Loss of semen means loss of qi, so ejaculation had a negative connotation
- This new sect caused for the flourishing of the philosophy



The Mongols and Daoism



- The second turning point of Daoism was from 1279 to 1368 when the Mongols ruled China
- The Mongols approved many religions in China except for Daoism
- Daoism and Buddhism were at a struggle with each other at this time
- The Mongols sided with Buddhism and looked unfavorably on Daoism
- Property and wealth of Daoists were taken by the Mongol state
- This caused there to be a decline of Daoism in China

Genghis Khan and Daoism

- He was Interested in philosophical lessons
- Consulted with Daoist monk, Qiu Chuji about Daoism
- Genghis Khan supported Daoism in China but he never converted to Daoism because he was tolerant of all religions
- He had some of the most prominent Daoists come and explain Daoist Principles in his court
- Later emperors such as Kublai Khan do not have the same religious tolerance as Genghis



Kublai Khan and Daoism



- In 1281 there was a debate between Buddhist and Daoist Monks
- Kublai Khan chose the side of the Buddhist monks
- He then put Severe limits on the Daoists
- As a result of Kublai Khan siding with Buddhism at the debate:
 - Some Daoist monks abandoned their beliefs and some even converted to Buddhism
 - Many Daoist monasteries were converted into Buddhist monasteries
 - Some of the wealth and property of the Daoist Monks was taken by the Mongol authorities
 - Daoism lost followers



Statue of Genghis Khan



Painting of the Mongols

Communist Revolution and Daoism

- around fifty years ago, the daoist following became the largest it ever was
- Communism had a large following as well
- Created tension between two sides
- Violence began to emerge and thus, the Communist revolution began
- This was a plan to wipe out all “non-communists”, similar of Hitler’s goals of wiping out the Jewish community
- This caused a lot of dwindling in both Daoism’s popularity and numbers

Communist Revolution



Spread of Daoism

- Daoism originated in China
- 2,000 years of history
- Estimated 20-200 million Daoists worldwide
- Almost all Daoists are still located in China
- Growing popularity in the west due to alternative medicine and martial arts
- About 30,000 Daoists located in N. America



Daoism Present Day

- Daoism's core beliefs have remained fairly constant
- the main thing that changed was the amount of followers
- ever since 1911, or the fall of the Ching Dynasty, and the communist revolution, the Daoism following has decreased significantly
- Currently, the philosophy has 20 million followers
- the practices of the daoists are still fairly traditional and the main five mountains of worship are still popular today
- today, monks still meet at the five ancient peaks regularly
- due to how traditional this religion is, Lao-tzu would most likely be able to recognize the religion that he founded

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