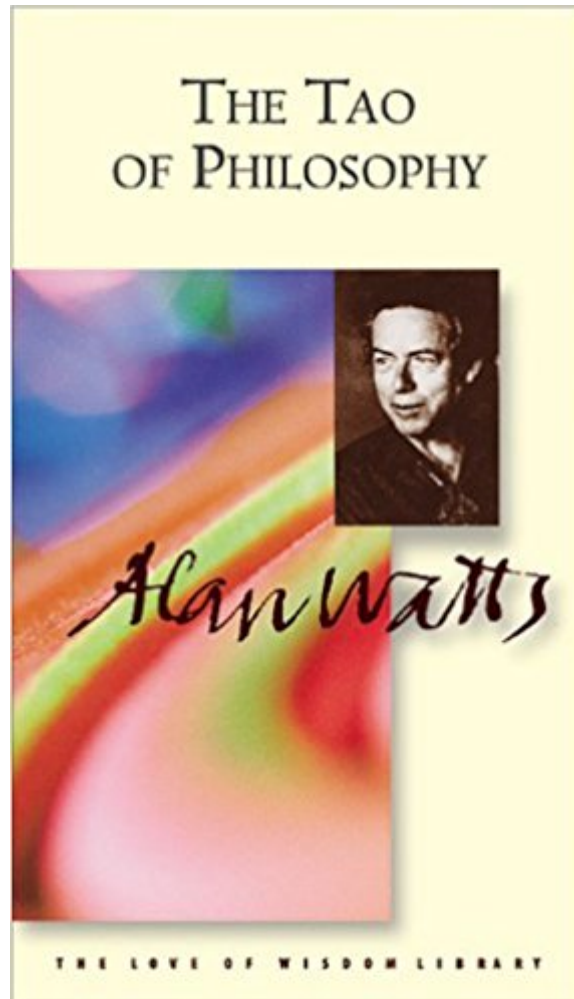


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The Tao Of Philosophy (Alan Watts Love Of Wisdom)



Synopsis

Who am I? Why am I here? What is the nature of the world around me? Alan Watts (1915 – 1973) – noted professor, graduate-school dean, Harvard University research fellow, and Episcopal priest – examines these fundamental questions from a Taoist perspective, learning to appreciate not just the bowl but the empty space within it. With down-to-earth writing he reveals our direct connection to the natural world and reminds us that we are not so much born into this world as grown out of it. This collection of eight of Watts' unique philosophical essays and an early piece written in 1953 has a brief introduction by Alan's son, Mark Watts, which gives the background of these pieces and their place in Alan Watts' life and work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have a few short (nonfiction) books that I consider "elite" and worth owning. Among my few favorite short works, Boethius' "The Consolation of Philosophy" and Voltaire's "Candide," both fiction, is Alan Watts' "The Tao of Philosophy," a rarely potent nonfiction of similar length. Especially for those who have had no exposure to Eastern philosophy and religion, this book has the ability to induce in the reader a radical shift in perspective, a gestalt switch. For those with some exposure, this book may be enlightening, bringing into stark contrast the fundamental differences in perspectives between Eastern and Western thinking. I was among the latter, having already been exposed, and so I found Watts' text as an immense product of, most likely, an excessively deep and sustained

reflection about the psychology and philosophy that goes into innate Western and Eastern modes of thought. I should emphasize the former, the psychological component. My understanding is that Watts was trained in psychology, and that this lecture series was given to an audience of practicing psychologists. This makes the text a very interesting excursion, for, even if one has reflected upon the nature of comparison between Eastern and Western thought, one is sure to find many valuable psychologically nuanced points therein. If anything, this text is not a deep exfoliation of ideas, but something to stir our pots. The only complaint I would have for this text is its short length, but, again, I think its function is to stir our pots. What's more, the plenitude of gems, in the form of aphorisms, is enough to occupy most readers for a lifetime, because of the value and objective importance of the points Watts' brings to the fore. Some of the revealing defenses Watts makes (e.g.

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