

Foreword by Richard Strozzi-Heckler from

The Way of Leading People: Unlocking Your Integral Leadership Skills with the Tao Te Ching

Somewhere in the late 1960's, I was handed a dog-eared copy of the *Tao Te Ching* by a philosophy professor who added the dubious comment, "This is something you'd probably like." The small paperback was held in place by rubber bands, and the yellowed pages kept falling out. The actual text of the book occupied a small space next to the dense, endless commentary by a nineteenth century English scholar who was the editor and translator. There were no glossy photos, hand-brushed calligraphy, or slick vellum pages. This was clearly not intended to be an elegant, coffee table book.

Yet thumbing through the crumbling pages, I was immediately captivated. The book was mysterious, puzzling, and maddeningly paradoxical—impenetrable and at the same time compelling. The words made sense to my heart and gut, but not to my head. Who was this Lao Tzu, and what was he really saying? I returned over and over again to the economical lines, not because I learned something but because, in some inexplicable way, reading the book made me feel more settled.

A year or so later I began a meditation practice, and a year or so after that I began practicing Aikido, a Japanese martial art. As these practices began to inform my life, they ran on a parallel course with my relationship with the Tao. Stepping on a path of meditation and Aikido—living the *Tao*, in other words—has allowed the depth and profundity of the *Tao Te Ching* to permeate my whole being more readily.

Of all the editions of the *Tao Te Ching* that I've carried over these years, Patrick and Tim Warneka's *The Way of Leading People* is by far the most innovative and daring. The stunning photographs of urban cityscapes instead of nature aren't the only things that make the book unique. There's also the emphasis on a compassionate, post-rational leadership that builds a dynamic relevancy for the sustainability of the planet and the human race.

In these interpretations of the verses, you'll find stimulating and applicable references to the *Internet*, *body-mind continuum*, *emotional engagement*, *CEO's*, *copy machines*, *mission statements*, and much, much more. This book will provoke the reader's thinking around leading others and walking your personal path, as we all discover how to lead a life of harmony in a technologically heavy, post-rational world.

The Warnekas challenge us to open our hearts and minds and let the 2500-year-old wisdom of this classic text interface directly with our 21st century concerns. I suggest you choose a verse to read everyday and allow the wisdom of the words and the impact of the photographs to work through your spirit. Then step on a path, a living discipline, and let yourself embody your personal *Tao*.

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