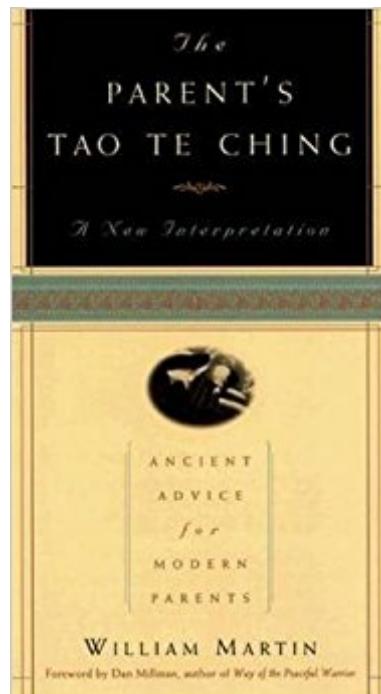


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The Parent's Tao Te Ching: Ancient Advice For Modern Parents



Synopsis

William C. Martin has freshly reinterpreted the Tao Te Ching to speak directly and clearly to the most difficult of modern tasks -- parenting. With its combination of free verse and judicious advice, The Parent's Tao Te Ching addresses the great themes that permeate the Tao and that support loving parent- child relationships: responding without judgment, emulating natural processes, and balancing between doing and being.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Parent's Tao Te Ching is not about behavior modification and table etiquette. There are plenty of other books for that sort of thing. How many times have you read on of those "How to Raise a Perfect Child" books and tried to apply their practical advice to your unpractical offspring? (note: I have just counted and I have 37 books about practical parenting on the shelves of my living room library that I have collected over the past 19 years of being a mother). I can't count how many times my children have looked at me with smirks on their little faces and said, "What book did you read that in?" when I've tried yet another spin on an old parenting technique. I am so grateful for Mr. Martin's book. It does not tell me I can be Martha Stewart, Mother Goose and the Pink Power Ranger all rolled into one as long as I follow the steps. It simply reminds me of what is real. For example, here is an excerpt from one of my favorite passages:"They look so small and frail but they are great and magnificent. They are born of the same womb that birthed the cosmos and knitted together the galaxies."This book is a simple, elegant reminder of what truly matters. I have two

copies. One for my bedside and one for the office. I open the second one when my husband calls with the latest child- related disaster update.I highly recommend Willam Martin's other Tao Te Ching related books: The Couple's Tao Te Ching and The Sage's Tao Te Ching.

I really love this book. It is simple, like a cup of coffee in the morning and doesn't require that I apply each chapter to the raising of my children like a course in Parenting 101. I feel the author William Martin understood I was searching for an inner understanding, not more rules for parenting that can be so hard to obey because they only work once. It seems to be a real challenge to raise our children, keeping them safe, all the while being aware of the subtle difference between teaching and controlling. I have often found myself questioning my decision to become a parent, a job I cannot walk away from. After reading this book, I have started to understand where the real parent in me resides and she's a lot stronger, and frankly, a lot more fun than I had given her credit for.

This is the ONE book on parenting that everyone (parents, grandparents, caregivers, anyone at all who cares about children of all ages) should read and carry with them, always. It is especially helpful for those who have limited exposure to non-Western ideas, spiritual or otherwise. What is so special about Mr. Martin's book? It forces one to focus on the CHILD, and one's reactions to the child, and to stop worrying about classifying everything and overanalyzing the child. Parents these days get so worked up about raising the perfect child, and parenting perfectly, that no one winds up happy, and I for one think many of these current generations will suffer because of this. If only more parents would read Martin's book, they'd realize that children will grow up, with or without our interference. This book will guide those who choose to let the child become who THEY should be, rather than who we WANT them to be...wise words for us all.

I recently read about this book in Oprah Winfrey's magazine (September issue of "O") and thought it might be a nice gift for my brother and his new wife- as they are thinking about taking on the gift of children. I picked up the book and flipped through it with the intent of putting it in the mail immediately... then I couldn't stop reading. Each short and simple chapter was like a drink of cool, refreshing water. I have no intention of giving up this copy (autographed) so I'm planning on buying several more as gifts to all of my friends. I also picked up "The Couple's Tao Te Ching" by William Martin. That is going on my gift list, also.

When I received this, I read it in starts but it began to creep into my consciousness. After reading so

many books on children, I began to take solace in these simple reflections on what it truly means to be a parent. Only in recent decades did the word 'parenting' even become a verb. Martin translates the 81 poems or songs of the Tao to relate to modern parents. The simple prose and obvious truths resonate, but you must let them sink in. Read it sparingly, and not necessarily in any order. I've highlighted half my book, sent passages to friends and find myself going back to it often. I have given many copies of this book to new parents. Here are just a few examples:
#22 If you want them to have much, show them how to enjoy little.
#67 teach your children compassion, patience and simplicity ... some say this is absurd. They would teach instead, ambition, drive and consumption.
#76 Children become confused when parents become rigid, holding rules above love. Be consistently flexible. Hold tight only to compassion.
28 If you complain about politics.... your children will learn to whine instead of laugh.
52 Seeing your pain, they forget as well and everyone is in darkness.
Imagine, if #67 were true, and a child were a patient, compassionate and simple being, oh what a joy! What a rarity in today's high self esteem, over scheduled and all-about-me culture. It transformed me and the type of person I've become. Enjoy.

The language is simple and pure. The words speak truth. I still want to protect my child from the world but now I can see she is the greatest gift I could give the world because she is the greatest gift the world has given me. It is my sacred duty to teach her the basics and keep her safe and be there throughout her life. My heart will break when she leaves the protection of my arms but my heart will soar as I watch her spread her wings and fly. Just as she was born to fly. Thank you for this book.

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