

## CHINESE RELIGION: CLASS OUTLINE 4

### LAOZI (LAO-TZU) & THE DAODEJING (TAO TE CHING)

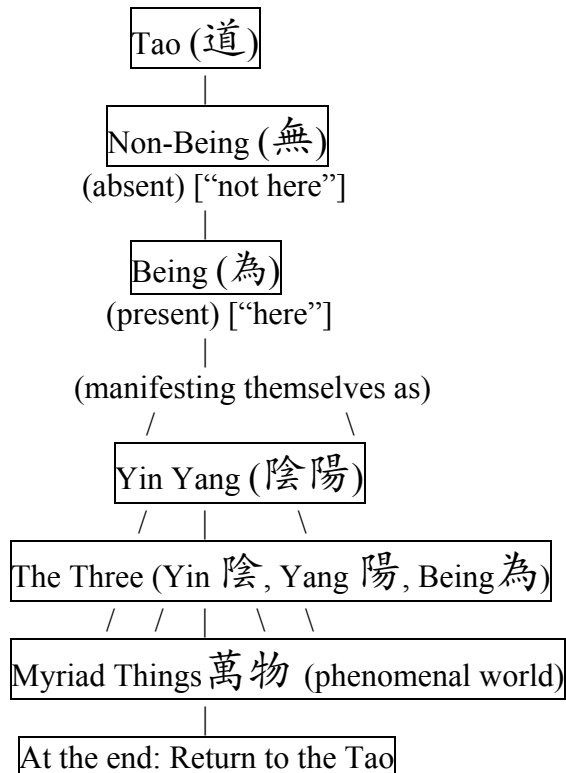
Lao-tzu 老子 [Lǎozǐ]

Tao Te Ching 道德經 [Dào Dé Jīng]

Problems of authorship

**Twofold Structure of the Tao Te Ching:** (1) Tao section: chs. 1-37  
(2) Te section: chs. 38-81

**Cosmology of the Tao Te Ching:**



cycle: latency (potentiality) of Tao → manifestation of myriad things → latency of Tao

reversion

actionless action (*wu-wei*) 無為 [wúwéi], leading to “spontaneity” (naturalness) 自然 [zìrán]

ideal society