

## CONVERGENCE WITH NATURE A Daoist Perspective

David E. Cooper

- Shows how a Daoist approach can help people reconnect with nature
- Discusses controversial ethical issues such as hunting, intensive farming and environmental activism
- Author is a distinguished philosopher with a strong interest in Asian thought

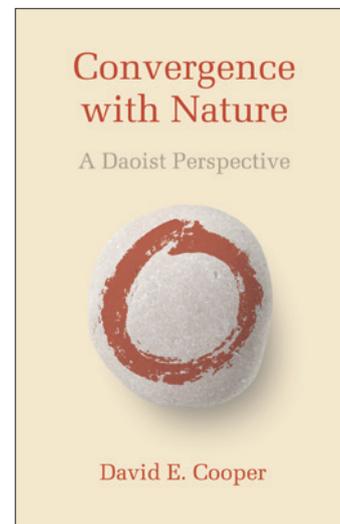
In this book David E. Cooper explores our relationship to nature – to animals, to plants, to natural places – and asks how it can be shaped into an appropriate one which contributes to the good of people’s lives as a whole. Religions and philosophies have much to say about our relationship with nature, and Chinese Daoist philosophy has long been regarded as among those most sympathetic to the natural world. Daoists seek an attunement to the Dao (the Way) which is characterized by a sense of flow (water being a favourite metaphor), spontaneity, non-interference, humility and patience – virtues which contrast with the aggressive and exploitative values which characterize a modern world increasingly subject to economic imperatives.

Like the best of contemporary nature writing, the classic Daoist texts reveal a yearning for convergence with nature, nostalgia for a lost intimacy with the natural world, disillusion with humanity or its products, and a feeling for nature’s mystery. The author explains how these attitudes are rooted in Daoist philosophy and explores their implications for our practical engagement with natural environments. He discusses, too, a number of ethical issues – including hunting, intensive farming, and environmental activism – that reflective people need to address in their efforts to heal our relationship with the Earth.



**The Author:** David E. Cooper was Professor of Philosophy at Durham University for many years and has been a visiting professor at universities in the United States, Canada, Malta, Sri Lanka and South Africa. His philosophical interests range from environmental ethics to aesthetics, from the philosophy of language to Asian thought, from the history of philosophy to the philosophy of religion. His many books include

*Existentialism: A Reconstruction, World Philosophies: An Historical Introduction, The Measure of Things: Humanism, Humility and Mystery* and *A Philosophy of Gardens*.



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### Contents include:

Why Daoism?

Religion, technology, estrangement

Environmentalism and ‘otherness’

Nature in Daoism

Dao, world and unity

De, virtues and sages

Mindfulness of nature

Nature, feeling and appreciation

Engaging with nature

Wilderness, wildness, wildlife

Intervening in nature

Intervening for nature?

#### PUBLISHERS

Bee West, Green Books,  
Dartington Space, Dartington Hall,  
Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EN  
Tel: 01803 863260  
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sales@greenbooks.co.uk  
www.greenbooks.co.uk

#### PUBLICITY

Stacey Hedge, Green Books,  
Dartington Space, Dartington Hall,  
Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EN  
Tel: 01803 863260  
Fax: 01803 863843  
stacey@greenbooks.co.uk  
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#### SALES REPRESENTATION

Signature Books Representation UK  
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