



## ***FINDING THE WAY: A NOVEL OF LAO TZU***

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### **Lao Tzu, the legendary founder of Taoism is fictionalized for the first time**

**Wayne Ng** brings the great philosopher Lao Tzu to life in [\*Finding the Way: A Novel of Lao Tzu\*](#), an exciting work of historical fiction set in ancient China. Published by Earnshaw Books, July 1, 2018.

The Way, or Taoism, was founded by the revered philosopher, Lao Tzu. While his name is generally unknown, Lao Tzu's teachings closely parallel those of later legends including Jesus Christ and Buddha. Taoism spawned tai chi and kung fu and is the foundation of the iconic notions of yin and yang. It was adopted by pop culturists such as George Lucas who heavily incorporated the philosophy into the beloved Yoda and the Force.

*Finding the Way* recounts how renowned scholars Lao Tzu and Confucius are drawn into the deadly struggle between twin princes, each vying for their ailing father's fragmenting empire. Rooted in history and inspired by legend, Ng's novel is a political thriller wrapped in a philosophical bow tie.

### **The Legend**

According to legend, in the 6th century B.C., Lao Tzu mounted his water buffalo and wandered off to die. He was stopped by a guard who convinced the scholar to record his work. These writings formed the basis of the Tao Te Ching, the book of the Way (Taoism). Ng's political thriller picks up the legend from this moment. Historical records are inexact, but it is said that Lao Tzu worked in the Royal Archives of the Zhou court where he met Confucius. As little is actually known about Lao Tzu's life, Ng was inspired to literally fill in the blanks.

### **The Novel Description**

Lao Tzu is a dreamer. He longs for a world no longer at war and imagines a simpler life in rhythm with nature. However, he is betrayed and loses everything. At the very depths of despair, he is offered redemption: an opportunity to spread his beliefs in the Zhou Royal Court.

Here, he is confronted by a vainglorious King and a mad Queen, but he also discovers a protégé in their son Prince Meng, the thoughtful but hesitant, heir to the throne. Lao Tzu's ideas of peace and natural order leave him ill-prepared for the intrigue of the Palace. He is crippled by the toxic rivalry between Meng and his twin brother, the bold and decisive Prince Chao. Chao undercuts Meng at every turn as he tries to usurp Meng's birthright by any means. Confucius arrives and soon allies with Chao. Control of the dynasty is now at stake, culminating in a venomous clash between Taoism and Confucianism. With the King ailing and war imminent, Lao Tzu is betrayed yet again. He must now cast aside his ideals to fight for his life. But is it too late?

### **Praise from the [Historical Novel Society - Editors' Choice](#)**

"Ng's novel is a superbly written tale, full of intrigue and drama and rich with cultural narrative. All of the main characters are vivid and multidimensional, and even the secondary characters are distinct and memorable.

The writing itself is lovely. There are so many turns of phrase throughout this novel that are simply pretty that I took quite a long time to read this, just because I spent a lot of time highlighting things as I read. The philosophical discussions embedded within are welcome food for thought, and I learned a lot about Taoism. It piqued my interest to learn more, which I think is the highest praise I can give to any book: that it inspired me to go learn something new because of it. Highly recommended."

### **About Wayne Ng**

Wayne Ng was born in downtown Toronto to Chinese immigrants who fed him a steady diet of bitter melons and kung fu movies. Like his romantic, idealist protagonist Lao Tzu, in *Finding the Way*, he dreams of a just society, of worlds far from his doorstep, and of tastes, sensations and experiences beyond his imagination. Ng works as a school social worker in Ottawa but lives to write, travel, eat and play, preferably all at the same time. He is an award-winning short story and travel writer who has twice backpacked through China. Ng continues to push his boundaries from the Arctic to the Antarctic, blogging and photographing along the way at [WayneNgWrites.com](http://WayneNgWrites.com).

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