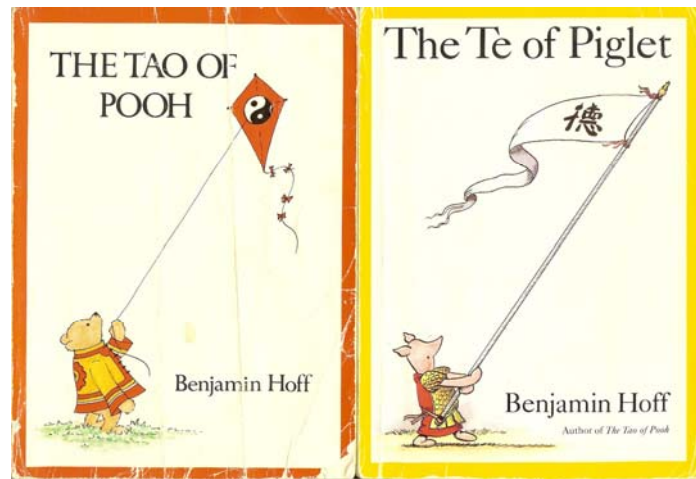


The Te of Piglet

By Benjamin Hoff

Reviewed by Eileen Hu



The author wrote this book because he wanted to explain Tao further. *The Tao of Pooh* by the same author and *The Te of Piglet* are companion books. They both explain Tao. But while *The Tao of Pooh* explains Tao through simple-minded Pooh, *The Te of Piglet* uses Piglet's actions to demonstrate Te, a Chinese word meaning Virtue of the Small.

The Te of Piglet is a very good book. One reason is that Benjamin Hoff, the author, writes funny, as well as serious things. The author writes as if he were talking to the reader and sometimes has the characters talking too (he talks to the characters). He also compares the character's personalities to the personalities of people. For example, he calls people who are good at starting things but not at finishing them Tiggers, because Tigger is good at starting things but not at finishing them. Benjamin Hoff also borrows short stories and passages from other authors and books, like A. A. Milne's Pooh books.

One serious thing he writes about is how much people affect the earth. Thousands of Americans unknowingly hurt the earth every day. If you look in an average American garage, you will find hundreds of things that pollute the air, water and land. And the things we dump on our lawns and dumps! Also, Eeyores (people with personalities like Eeyore) strain children with too much knowledge too soon, which is not good, not good at all. Who wants depressed, stressed, overburdened children who are more likely to throw tantrums?

Don't forget there are funny parts too. There is a funny paragraph in the book that I want to share with you. I just need to tell you that "they" refers to "Eeyores":

First, they made us change chairman to chairperson, which meant the same thing as chairman, only it was harder to say, longer to write, and just a bit silly. After a while, recognizing that chairperson was indeed rather awkward and stupid, they made us change it to chair. You know what a chair is. It's a thing. You sit on it.

This book teaches people about what is good and what is not in the author's opinion. It actually helps. For example, he writes that Eeyores are bad, and Tao is good. Eeyores are bad because they are always grumpy, gloomy, praising themselves or inflicting pain on others. And I don't think they've heard the expression "half a loaf of bread is better than one" either. Tao is good because it makes people relaxed. Tao is not a rigid religion, it is a practice. The author's opinions help because his opinions guide people in the right direction in how to act. For example, after reading this book I feel motivated to be more pleasant and nice to everyone, even to my younger sister, whom I quarrel and disagree with the most. I recommend this book to anyone who likes to learn while being entertained. I know most of you hate boring books and lessons but are still eager to learn. If that describes you, you would like this book too.

This book contains songs about Tao. Here is one of them (another name for Tao is the Way):

*Let's find a Way
Today
That can take us to tomorrow
Follow that Way,
A Way like flowing water.*

In this book Piglet finally came to understand Te and Tao. As the book starts, Piglet wishes he were bigger and stronger, but at the end he realizes that being small is a great advantage.