

Taoism

Lao Tzu

The legendary founder of Taoism was a philosopher named Lao Tzu who lived in China around 600 B.C.E. (His name is also sometimes spelled Laotse.) One story about Lao Tzu says that Confucius, another Chinese philosopher, once visited him. Asked about the visit, Confucius said:

Of birds I know they have wings to fly with,
of fish they have fins to swim with,
of wild beasts that they have feet to run with.

For feet there are traps, for fins nets, for wings arrows.

But who knows how dragons surmount wind and clouds
into heaven ?

This day I have seen Lao Tzu and he is a dragon.

What do you think Confucius meant by this? Explain it in your own words.



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