

*Understanding Major World Religions*  
“Taoism and Shinto”

I. Founder of Taoism

A. Li-Po-Yang

1. His life

B. General information

1. Difficult to define

2. More a philosophy than a religion

3. “The Way of Nature”

4. Modern Taoism is thought of three ways.

a.

b.

c.

II. Basic teaching

A. Basic unity

1. Harmony

2. The “Star Wars” series

3. The flow

a. Useless to struggle against

- 4. No human achievement is of consequence. All will be destroyed by the Tao.
  - a. I Peter 1:24

5. The best – lead a quiet life

B. Life is greatest of all possibilities

- 1. Key points

C. Life should be lived simply.

D. Pomp and glory despised.

E. Harmony in all things

### III. Basic to Chinese philosophy

A. Yin and Yang

- 1. Fits well with Taoism

### IV. Points of contact with Christianity

A. “The Way”

B. Balance in life is good.

## V. Shinto

### A. Background

1. Oldest religion of Japan
2. Key points

### B. Main feature

1. “The Way of the Gods”
2. Ritualistic
3. Two holy books
  - a. Nihongi
  - b. Kojika
4. Summary

## VI. Points of Contact with Christianity

### A. Japanese naturalism

### B. Western nature of Japan