

## Daoism and Ecology: A Modest Proposal (Which Will Not Be Adopted)

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### DAOIST MONASTICISM AS BASELINE

- Voluntary Simplicity: Living through What Is Necessary and Essential
- Celibacy: Renunciation of Biological and Social Reproduction
- Sobriety: Renunciation of Intoxicants and Distorting Influences
- Vegetarianism/Veganism: Renunciation of Involvement in Animal Suffering and Violence

### TOWARDS A DAOIST BIOREGIONAL ETHOS AND WATERSHED ETHICS: SELECTIONS FROM THE Lǎojūn Yībǎi Bāshíyī Jiè 老君一百八十一戒 (180 PRECEPTS OF LORD LAO)

4. Do not harm or kill any being.
7. Do not throw food into fires.
14. Do not burn fields, wild lands, mountains, or forests.
18. Do not wantonly cut down trees.
19. Do not wantonly pick herbs or flowers.
36. Do not throw poisonous substances into wells, ponds, rivers, or the ocean.
47. Do not wantonly dig holes in the earth and thereby destroy mountains and rivers.
49. Do not step on or kick the six domestic animals.
53. Do not drain waterways or marshes.
77. Do not landscape mountains, erect graves, or build houses for others.
79. Do not fish or hunt and thereby harm and kill the host of living beings.
82. Do not take away other people's night fires.
95. Do not, during winter, dig up insects hibernating in the earth.
97. Do not wantonly climb trees to plunder nests and destroy birds' eggs.
98. Do not catch birds or animals in cages or nets.
100. Do not throw anything filthy or defiled into public wells.
101. Do not block up ponds or wells.
109. Do not light fires on the plains.
121. Do not wantonly or lightly enter rivers or the ocean to take a bath.
132. Do not startle birds and animals.
134. Do not wantonly open up dams in lakes.

~ *Lǎojūn jīnglǜ* 老君經律 (Scriptural Statutes of Lord Lao), DZ 786, 4b-9b

(with acknowledgments to Kristofer Schipper 施舟人 [1934-2021])