

Le Guin's *Tao Te Ching* (1)

403–221 BCE	Warring States Period
ca. 300 BCE	coalescence of Laozi tradition (orally, then written)
205–190 BCE	Mawangdui <i>Laozi</i> (earliest extant full text)
1891 CE	James Legge, <i>The Tao Teh King</i> (Oxford: Clarendon)
1898	Paul Carus, <i>Lao-Tze's Tao-Teh-King</i> (Chicago: Open Court)
1960	Alfred Kroeber d. (“We did read those chapters at his memorial service”: introduction to <i>Lao Tzu</i> , ix)
1971	UKL, <i>The Lathe of Heaven</i> (New York: Scribner): title is from Legge
1973	discovery of Mawangdui <i>Laozi</i>
1997	UKL, <i>Lao Tzu: Tao Te Ching</i> (Boulder: Shambhala)

Tormer's Lay had been all day in my mind, and I said the words,

Light is the left hand of darkness
And darkness the right hand of light.
Two are one, life and death, lying
together like lovers in kemmer,
life hands joined together,
like the end and the way.

My voice shook as I said the lines, for I remembered as I said them that in the letter my brother wrote me before his death he had quoted the same words. (560)

“It's queer that daylight's not enough. We need the shadows, in order to walk.”

“Give me your notebook a moment.”

He had just noted down our day's journey and done some calculation... I drew the double curve within the circle, and blacked the yin half of the symbol, then pushed it back to my companion. “Do you know that sign?”

He looked at it a long time with a strange look, but he said, “No.”

“It's found on Earth, and on Hain-Davenant, and on Chiffewar. It is yin and yang. *Light is the left hand of darkness.* . . . how did it go? Light, dark. Fear, courage. Cold, warmth. Female, male. It is yourself, Therem. Both and one. A shadow on snow.” (583–84)