

— Mark Hathaway — The Tao of Liberation

Author, Facilitator, & Educator
Seeking Wisdom in Times of Crisis

Times of crisis can also be times of opportunity. The perils of the moment invite us to delve deeply and reassess the path that we have taken, to search for authentic wisdom. Psychologist Roger Walsh notes that our current crisis can serve to “strip away our defences and help us to confront both the true condition of the world and our role in creating it.” This can lead us to profound changes in the way we live, think, and act — and even the way we perceive reality itself.

Mark Hathaway has a deep passion for working with others to search for new and liberating ways of being and acting in the world. In facilitating workshops, retreats, and courses, he draws on years of in-depth research into both scientific and spiritual perspectives as well as his experience as both a hands-on advocate for change and as an adult educator.

He also employs experiential methods designed to help participants tap their own wisdom and experience — integrating body, heart, mind, and soul.

Mark holds a Masters Degree in Adult Education focusing on transformative learning. He has worked as a popular educator in Latin America and as a social justice advocate in Canadian churches and coalitions. He lives in Toronto with his wife and daughter.

On the inside of this brochure, explore the wide variety of themes and topics that Mark can incorporate into events such as retreats, courses, or workshops. For more ideas, see *The Tao of Liberation* book poster, including the detailed table of contents on the poster's reverse.



Exploring the Ecology of Transformation
By Mark Hathaway & Leonardo Boff

We are not lacking in the dynamic forces needed to create the future. We live immersed in a sea of energy beyond all comprehension. But this energy, in an ultimate sense, is ours not by domination but by invocation. (Thomas Berry)

Today we may be standing at the most important crossroads in the history of humanity, and indeed of the Earth itself. Deepening poverty and accelerating ecological degradation challenge us to act with insight and maturity: How can we move toward a future where meaning, hope, and beauty can truly flourish?

The Tao of Liberation is a search for this path, the wisdom needed to effect profound transformations in our world. Hathaway and Boff describe this wisdom using the ancient Chinese word Tao, meaning a way or path leading to harmony, peace, and right relationship. The Tao can also be understood as the wisdom that lies at the very heart of the flowing structure of the universe, encapsulating the essence of its purpose.

The book begins by asking: How does transformation occur?— Or, perhaps more precisely: Why is it so difficult to effect the changes so urgently needed to save the living Earth community? It then embarks on a journey of exploration through such diverse fields as economics, psychology, cosmology, and spirituality in search for the wisdom — or Tao — needed to move away from our current destructive path and instead toward authentic liberation: A way leading to ever-greater communion, diversity, and creativity. Find out more at:

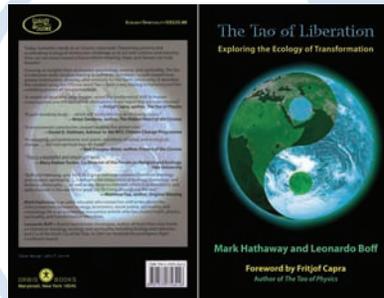
www.taoofliberation.org
Orbis Books • ISBN 978-1570758416

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Seeking Wisdom

...in a time of crisis | &

Delving Deeper

..to find new |

Paths to Liberation

...with |

Mark Hathaway



**Courses, Retreats, Workshops,
& Facilitation Services**

By the co-author of *The Tao of Liberation*

Seeking Wisdom — Delving Deeper — Paths to Liberation

Our Crisis in Perspective

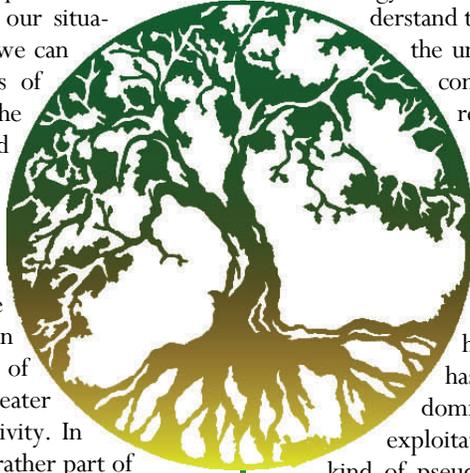
The crisis we face represent an unprecedented challenge for humanity. By viewing our situation from a cosmic perspective, we can gain new insights. At the roots of both the ecological crisis and the widening gap between rich and poor lies a deeper crisis of the soul. We are called to reinvent ourselves as a species, reframing our role as conscious participants in the unfolding evolution of the living Earth community. We can understand this process in terms of liberation: Moving toward greater diversity, communion, and creativity. In all of this, we are not alone, but rather part of a larger process that can be understood in terms of the great Way—the Tao, the Dharma, or the Malkuta (the Aramaic word normally translated as “kingdom”).

Unmasking Pathology

The systems of domination and exploitation which impoverish our planet and the great majority of humanity can seem overwhelming; but they are neither “natural” nor inevitable. A first step toward another way of living and being is to understand the sickness that afflicts us. In many respects, the way we live is similar to a delusional state—but once we start to see this clearly, we can also begin to move beyond it.

Overcoming Paralysis

Denial, despair, and our collective addiction of consumerism can both blind us and drain the passion and energy we need to work for real change. We can begin to overcome paralysis by re-rooting ourselves in the beauty of the Earth and the awe it inspires. Recognising our deep pain for the world and our responsibility in creating the current situation can also help us to reconnect with other people and other living creatures. By cultivating mindfulness, compassion, creativity, and wonder, we begin the process of healing.



Understanding our Place in the World

Cosmology deals with how we see the world, the way we understand the origin, evolution, destiny, and purpose of the universe. We all hold basic—though often unconscious—assumptions about the very nature of reality. These assumptions both influence our ability to perceive the problems we face and limit our imagination’s capacity to conceive paths toward wholeness and liberation.

Nearly every generation of humans has had a cosmology that helped give it a sense of meaning and purpose. Over the past five hundred years, however, a living cosmology has been replaced by a kind of “cosmology of domination” which provides a virtual license for exploitation and destruction. More recently still, a kind of pseudo-cosmology of consumerism has fostered both complacency and disconnection from the Earth.

Yet, for the past century or so, a new cosmology has begun to emerge from science, particularly in fields such as quantum physics, systems theory, and the story of the evolution of the cosmos itself, including our living planet. What new insights does this cosmology have for us? What does it teach us about the nature of change, and the nature of reality itself?

Reinventing the Human

The emerging story of the cosmos has the capacity to help us to reconnect with a deeper sense of purpose. What, then, is the role of the human species on our planet? How can we reinvent ourselves, moving from being a species that is destroying the life systems of our home to one that works consciously to enhance the Earth’s capacity to sustain life in all its beauty and diversity? How can we find meaning in creating community and celebrating creativity? In embracing limits and renouncing unbounded acquisition and consumption, we can move toward authentic liberation, including the creation of a just and equitable human society. The Earth Charter is one resource than can serve us in this endeavour.

Spirituality in an Ecozoic Era

As Thomas Berry points out, the current threat of “ecocide”—the destruction of the complex living systems that sustain complex organisms on Earth—confronts us with deep ethical questions that our spiritual and religious traditions have never before needed to consider. We must come to understand spirituality in a way that does not separate us from our embodied being and our connection with the Earth. Also, we need to see the multiplicity of religious traditions as a strength that deepens our wisdom. How might religions play a positive role in moving toward an “ecozoic” era where humans live in harmony with the greater Earth community? How, in particular, can the teachings of Jesus be understood as a foundation for an ecological spirituality?

Conceiving a New Vision

To move toward a new way of living and being on our planet, we need visions that can inspire and motivate us to work for change. One key vision is that can provide valuable insights is that of bioregionalism—of working on a local scale and becoming rooted in place.

The Ecology of Transformation

The four paths of creation spirituality can be used to help us integrate our insights about the inter-relationship of different processes involved in moving toward liberation. We can think of this as a kind of “ecology of transformation”. Both the Aramaic version of the Prayer of Jesus (“The Lord’s Prayer”) and the first chapter of the Q’uran, the *Surah Fateha*, can be seen to embody these paths, which also relate to other traditions such as Buddhism and Taoism.

Together with the insights gained from the new cosmology arising from science, these call us to new models of action integrating body, mind, and soul as well as vision, intention, and practice.

