

# Abstract

Title: **Letting go and detachment in the Tao Te Ching and in the works of Meister Eckhart**  
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This diploma thesis is divided into five chapters. The first one deals with goals and methods of the work and the fifth chapter is the conclusion. The theme itself is divided into three chapters: (2) theme of detachment in the Tao Te Ching, (3) theme of detachment by Meister Eckhart, (4) comparison of the detachment in the Tao Te Ching and in the works of Meister Eckhart.

The first part is concerned with the character of Laozi, the book of Tao Te Ching and its position in the Taoist canon. Then the basic terms of the Tao Te Ching, Tao, wu-wei and sameness, are examined. Consequently, the necessary analyses, which is interspersed with numerous citations from the Tao Te Ching and also from the secondary literature, follows to approach the topic „detachment in the Tao Te Ching“. In the end, I briefly outline, how the idea of detachment has been developed in Taoist praxis from the very beginning up to the present time.

The similar method for the topic of detachment by Meister Eckhart has been chosen – at first I deal with the character of Meister Eckhart, then with his Latin and German writing. Afterwards the basic ideas of his doctrine such as God and Godness, nothingness of the created things and „something godlike“ in the soul or unification with God are analysed. Then the theme of detachment in the work of Meister Eckhart and also in the broad Christian praxis is carefully examined.

The subsequent part is aimed at comparison of the phenomenon of detachment by Laozi and Meister Eckhart. After clarification of the basis of this religionistic comparison I come to the conclusion that detachment is a significant category, which goes across the religions, and so it can be faced one of the basic concept of the interreligious dialogue.

## Keywords

taoism, christianity, Laozi, Meister Eckhart, Tao, God, detachment, freedom, unification