



## A Perspective on Communities and Forestry in China

### A Daoist Renaissance: Can China 's ancient Daoist philosophy help its current ecological crisis?

This article by Anthony Alexander in *Resurgence* (Issue 234: Jan/Feb 2006) considers the relevance of China 's ancient Daoist philosophy in addressing that country's current environmental concerns from a bottom-up approach.

*"Since the 1980s, under the auspices of the Chinese State Bureau of Religious Affairs there has been a revival of Daoism; the major sects of the Daoist priesthood have been steadily rebuilding their heritage, and the Chinese Daoist Association now includes some 45,000 priests and nuns in several thousand temples, monasteries and hermitages. They have been at the forefront of grassroots-level environmental work in China .*

*For nearly 2,000 years it has been the duty of Daoist priests to promote respect for nature and personal responsibility for the impact that one's actions have. . . . The Daoist priesthood today encourages its millions of followers to cultivate new forest cover to repair denuded landscapes, to preserve wild habitats and to engage in social welfare and disaster relief. By directly working with their local communities, Daoists offer a practical bottom-up approach to counter the commendable, but poorly enforced, top-down environmental pronouncements from the central Government."*

For the full text of this article see <http://www.resurgence.org/2006/alexander234.htm>