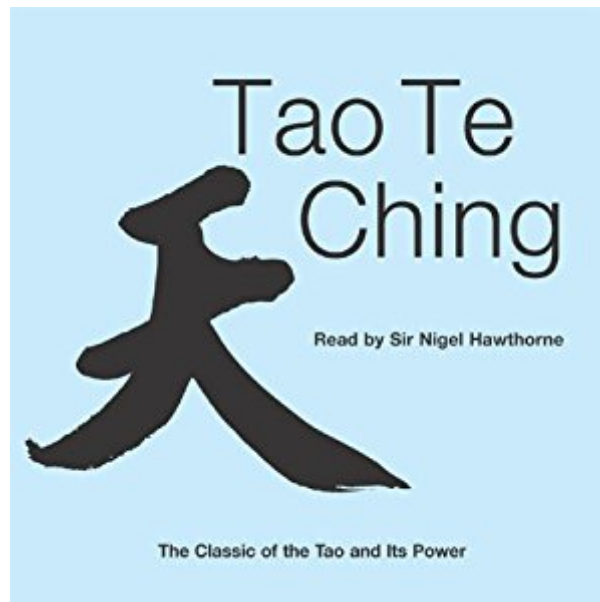


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The Tao Te Ching: The Classic Of The Tao And Its Power



Synopsis

Sir Nigel Hawthorne's inspiring reading brings to life this new translation of Lao Tzu's 2,500 year old Chinese classic. Probably the most influential spiritual book in human history, the Tao Te Ching translates as The Classic of The Tao and Its Power. In 80 short chapters, it reveals a profound view of the Tao, a unique and satisfying way of life and nature. This revered collection of wise sayings and commentaries is a complete guide to living the sagely life and finding a calm and tranquil center in the midst of the chaos and stress of 21st-century life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This brilliant translation is the best I have ever studied. Three eminent British scholars translated the Tao from the most ancient source available. Man-Ho and Palmer translated the original and Ramsay put it into the poetic language. The visuals on each page are from various Chinese paintings, mostly very old ones. They are superb art. The calligraphy, by Chan, is beautiful. Their aim was to clearly present the Tao, and their choice of language and profound understanding of the Tao (both the book and message in the book) make this the most accessible translation I have ever read (and I've studied dozens).

"I know, I know, first everything's one way and then it's the opposite."-Hank Hill
This is a classic of Chinese philosophy, and a good companion to Heraclitus' Fragments. Where fire was the central metaphor for an ever-changing universe in the latter, in the former it is water. The translators, Martin Palmer, Jay Ramsey, and Man-Ho Kwok utilize Ezra Pound's "stepped line" technique to give the

text a flowing appearance, which is very effective. I have not read any other translations- there are many- but I find in this version one verse I think dubious: Greed is the seed of apocalypse-It is the rocket-fuel of selfishness:Me, me, me!Here I do find the typographic and grammatical modernizations annoying. The word "apocalypse" has a biblical connotation which is inappropriate, unless the Chinese word was "revelation" (the original meaning of that infamous Greek noun), which it surely was not. Encountering "rocket fuel" in an ancient text is just too great an anachronism. The artwork is quite nice, perfect for a little spirituality at the coffee-table.

I first got this edition of Tao while in interfaith seminary back in 1996. I have read and used it for services and other workshops and groups since then on a regular basis. I highly recommend this translation as the best I have found so far..... It is obvious (to me) that the writers and graphic artists too have done their inner homework before completing this treasure. May you all experience this clearly created playful expression of the Tao. Namaste, Rev. Atindra Gibbs, The Interfaith Circle Berkeley, CA

This book is beautifully illustrated and has an insightful forward into the history of China. I highly recommend this book to those that are at an intermediate level of understanding eastern philosophy.

This one is one of the best translations by Kwok, even better than Stephen Mitchell's version. As an example, Chapter 46:- Mitchell "When a country is in harmony with the Tao, the factories make trucks and tractors. When a country goes counter to the Tao, warheads are stockpiled outside the cities."- Victor Mair "When the Way prevails under heaven, swift horses are relegated to fertilizing fields. When the Way does not prevail under heaven, war-horses breed in the suburbs."- Addiss & Lombardo "With TAO under heaven Stray horses fertilize the fields. Without TAO under heaven, Warhorses are bred at the frontier." Gia-Fu Feng & Jane English-- "When the Tao is present in the universe, The horses haul manure. When the Tao is absent from the universe, War horses are bred outside the city. R.L. Wing-- "When the world possesses the Tao, Even fast horses are used for their dung. When the world is without the Tao, War-horses are raised in the suburbs. Here is Kwok's version: when the Tao runs the world, the horses work the farms. without Tao, the horses are led into war along the borders. You see, if people want more and more, it can only lead to disaster. Greed is the seed of the apocalypse - it is the rocket-fuel for selfishness; me, me, me! If people could only be glad with all they have, if they only knew it, they'd be happy. Everyone missed the last part, sadly!

Wish this book gets more exposure.

Best source on core Daoism for seekers of truth I was reminded of this important book last week, in a Quaker discussion group of people trying to learn what would be most valuable to them from other cultures, to develop a true and unified understanding of what is most fundamental in life. For that group, will recommend this book as the one really outstanding source for the whole of Daoism. This is not a book for babies, nor a book for people looking for a code of instructions of what to do each hour of the day, but it as beautiful and poetic and clear as is possible, for something addressing a topic demanding some sensitivity and maturity of the reader. There are many versions of the Tao Te Ching out there, but this translation and the important introduction stand out. For those who wish to learn more practical details... well, there is a book by ChuangTzu which I should probably get around to reading more, and there is new work on neural networks which helps explain some of what the Tao Te Ching is talking about. It is unfortunate that many Chinese pay more attention to the I Ching, which makes lots of money for fortune tellers, a big part of the economic base of religious Daoism in China, which is a different subject. Probably I will suggest to the group that they also highlight Roger Walsh's book, The World of Shamanism, as another important deep source of information on the human experience from other parts of the world (though the history of shamanism and the history of Daoism do interlock somewhat). For Buddhism, I will recommend the Tibetan Book of the Dead and Journey to the West, an officially recognized Great Classic of China which also asks questions about some of what they see in Daoism (which has overlaps with Shinto).

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