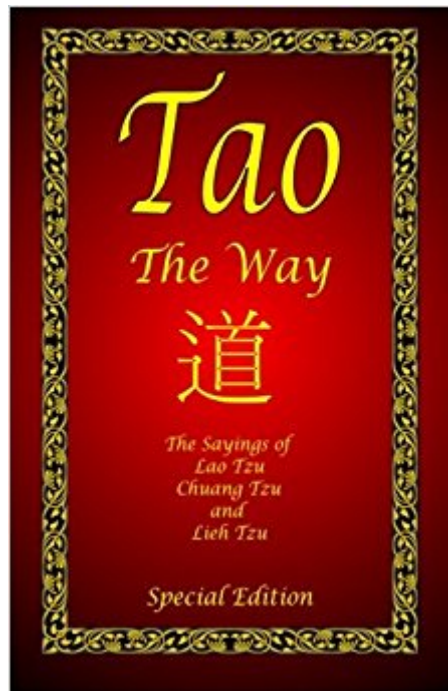


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Tao - The Way - Special Edition: The Sayings Of Lao Tzu, Chuang Tzu And Lieh Tzu



Synopsis

Lao Tzu was the father of Taoism. In his Tao Te Ching, Lao Tzu outlined the basic concept of Tao. Chuang Tzu and Lieh Tzu were Lao Tzu's most important followers who expounded and expanded the basic principles set forth by Lao Tzu. Together, the sayings of these three sages, which make up this volume, are the foundations for the philosophy of Tao. The translations of the works of these ancient Chinese sages by Lionel Giles and Herbert Giles are very highly regarded and considered by many to be the definitive English translations. Lionel's translation of The Sayings of Lao Tzu (1905), taken from the Tao Te Ching and logically re-ordered, is remarkable for its clarity of expression, particularly given the complexity of the subject. Herbert's translation of The Sayings of Chuang Tzu, presented here, with an introduction by Lionel, was originally published as Musings of a Chinese Mystic (1906). Lionel's translation of The Sayings of Lieh Tzu was originally published as The Book of Lieh Tzu, or Teachings in Taoism (1912). Individually the works of these Chinese sages are classics. Together, they are a master resource of the history of Tao.

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Customer Reviews

This book contains all the essential elements of philosophy of the founder of Taoism, Lao Tzu, as expressed in the "Tao Te Ching" as well as the important interpretations and explanations of The Tao by his two most important disciples, Chuang Tzu and Lee Tzu. It contains all of the important sayings and parables that form the basis for Taoism from these three Great Sages. The translations from the Chinese texts by Lionel and Herbert Giles of these classic foundations of Tao are both

scholarly and sensitive. The comprehension of ancient Chinese by this father/son team is obviously profound. Unlike other translators, their English is also impeccable - simple, clear and precise. Their introductions and discussions to the sections by the three Great Sages of Tao provide insights into the philosophy and culture of ancient China that are unparalleled. If you are looking to develop an understanding of the underlying principles of Tao, this is probably the best source available in the English language. As you read this fine volume, you will frequently find yourself saying: "Ah - I see." This book is really extraordinary. It has my highest recommendation.

Unlike the countless "translations" of the Tao Te Ching, this represents a rather loose (but accurate) translation, ordered by topic, not by chapter of the TTC. So don't look at this as a version of the Tao Te Ching; it is rather a collection of knowledge from the Tao Te Ching. What you lose in poetry & flow is made up for in accessibility. The other writings -- Chuang Tzu and Lieh Tzu, are good to have as they are generally under-read. Some very interesting applications of the Tao Te Ching knowledge from followers of Lao Tzu. Overall, this could be a nice introduction to Taoist philosophy OR a new perspective for those who are very familiar with the Tao Te Ching -- plus the Chuang Tzu and Lieh Tzu writings. Very glad I made this purchase.

This book on Tao really presents a significantly more thorough presentation of the Books of Chuang Tzu, Lieh Tzu, and Laozi. The translation by Herbert Giles, the pioneer of the Wade-Giles Romanization system for the transliteration of Chinese, and his son, Lionel Giles (the translator of Sun Tzu's "The Art of War") is simply the finest that has been produced. Though other versions of the Tao have been elevated to liquid poetry, they lose the meaning behind the teachings. For a scholarly look at the philosophy of Tao, I highly recommend this edition.

I read the Tao Te Ching over a decade ago, and to be quite honest, I wasn't all that impressed. It seemed like a really long poem, and I had trouble understanding why something seemingly so simple had been attributed so much wisdom. It certainly wasn't a situation where I read both parts of the Tao Te Ching, and suddenly said "Aha! I understand." Recommended by a friend, I experienced something completely different in this newly-compiled Taoism companion. This book contains the teachings of the founders of Taoism. It isn't presented in poetic rhymed verses, its beauty lies in the simple retelling of wisdom learned through life experience and deep meditation. These teachings have survived the centuries, because they are true. Reading this, I had my "Aha!" moment. I can't stress strongly enough... if you are a true Student of Tao, or even of the truth, don't give up on

learning the teachings of Laozi by simply reading what has become the Tao Te Ching. Follow the path where it leads, learn the lessons it has to teach, and pass on what you have learned to those you cherish the most. I purchased this Kindle edition, having been burned a few times on books without covers or tables of contents, but everything is where it should be. Also, I experimented with the text to speech technology, and listening to the story of Chuang Tzu recounting his dream of becoming a butterfly is truly mesmerizing and uplifting.

I continue with my review of material supporting the concept of "The Tao." The beauty of such books is in the author's giving of their time to such translations. In my opinion, there is no one right answer. The language consists of a plethora of characters. The meaning of each, can and does at times vary with the understanding of the translating author. Make it sufficient to say, the reader should decide on the virtue and validity of the translation in their own mind.

Although there are some typographical errors, this is a good collection of important Tao sages, and their teachings.

The content of the book is awesome but the formatting left a lot to be desired. If you can't find older used copies of the books included, then this works as a useful compilation if you can overlook the poor formatting. It's not unreadable, just not optimum. I will say that I always recommend older translations of Taoist works and original Taoist texts over the fluffy "pop" versions out there, and this contains excellent translations. Still, if you can get older copies, do so. This is a book great for studying but it lacks the feel of a nice, well-formatted book. The original pages of the public domain books are not scanned in --- which I would've preferred --- and instead the text is re-formatted in what looks to be a .pdf file, albeit printed.

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