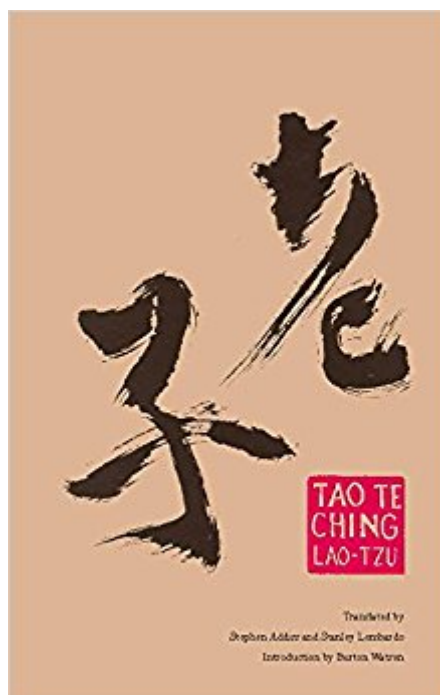


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Tao Te Ching (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

This translation captures the terse and enigmatic beauty of the ancient original and resists the tendency toward interpretive paraphrase found in many other editions. Along with the complete translation, Lombardo and Addiss provide one or more key lines from the original Chinese for each of the eighty-one sections, together with a transliteration of the Chinese characters and a glossary commenting on the pronunciation and meaning of each Chinese character displayed. This greatly enhances the reader's appreciation of how the Chinese text works and feels and the different ways it can be translated into English.

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Customer Reviews

With this edition of the Tao Te Ching, an unlikely team of a Japanese art expert and a Greek translator pull off a uniquely powerful version of the text. If one thing marks the language of the original Tao Te Ching, it is linguistic sparseness. Stephen Addiss and Stanley Lombardo are the first to succeed in duplicating the language in English, and although their search for just the right word occasionally goes far afield, they are mostly successful. The effect can be quite liberating as the full ambiguity of meaning comes through and you are afforded the freedom to interpret in a variety of ways. The translators also enhance the atmosphere of the book with Addiss's expressive calligraphy and the two lines in the original Chinese that are retained in each chapter. Addiss and Lombardo's rendering of the Tao Te Ching gets you right down into the primary source, and from

there you're free to wander where you will.

This crystalline translation of the Tao Te Ching is accurate down to the nuance and as concisely poetic as the original. It preserves the quirks and flavors of the original text. The translators hearkened to the message of the book itself, and kept it clear and gently strong. Of the many translations I have read in English, this is unquestionably the best. --Gary Snyder, University of California at Davis
This edition combines an earthy--as opposed to esoteric--translation with a welcome entrée into the Chinese text for those who do not know that language. The gorgeous ink paintings add beauty to the edition. I can't imagine a better way to present this text, and I can't imagine ever using a different edition. --Greg Salyer, Huntingdon College
This is by far the best translation on the market today, and I have been praising it to whoever would listen. --Livia Kohn, Boston University

As with so many books, we endure the scholarly and erudite reviewers who claim to know which text and translation is the most recondite, the most accurate, the most true to the original. I don't know about all that. I know Lao Tsu was so important to Asian culture and life, and I know this book makes me feel whole again with each reading. I slow down, and his true words align the iron filings in my heart. Let the educated debaters go on with their "Ten thousand things" arguing about translations and meanings. They miss the point. Get this book, make some tea, turn off the incessant rattlings in your brain and the screens in your home and relax to ancient wisdom that has influenced millions of hearts and minds for thousands of years...

Best translation I have come across for westerners. CAVEAT! This specific edition is the "pocket" version. If you want the standard paperback version or hardcover, then this is not the one you're looking for. Having stated that, the Tao is one of the true classics of Eastern philosophy and remains one of the simplest, yet most profound works in human civilization. Stephen Mitchell's translation is at once poetic and literal. I think it is the best translation since it was first published in 1988.

the best Tao Te Ching translation. ive read a lot of different translations but this one is my favorite. it lacks the colloquial tone of some and the awkward prose of others. it's consistently good throughout. this is one of my favorite books of all time, buy it or borrow it. the hardcover version is so pretty to look at, read and enjoy

I picked up this book because of a recommendation in a very inspirational book I read by Dr. Wayne Dyer (may he now rest peacefully...your wisdom will live on!). I found the Tao very easy to read, & yet...very difficult to grasp! I have read & re-read it many times now. "The Tao is all & nothing, in doing nothing you achieve all." It's a lot to grasp. But each page is worth meditating on, as each lesson really has lifelong practicality. A lovely book, beautiful illustrations, & so quick & easy to get through. You could really read the entire thing in a short sitting! But then, go back & take your time...absorb it...there is so much being said in the short paragraphs. Happy journey!

Each of the many translations of this Taoist classic has its own slightly-different spirit and meaning. If you're new to the Tao Te Ching, this is a good version to read, and you'll probably feel it was time well spent. The original text contains many mystical, paradoxical statements which pose certain translation challenges, as well as some passages that were intended as advice for powerful rulers that seems cynical, not spiritual. For instance, the first thing the text tells us that the Way that can be told is not the Way, which can sound ridiculous if badly expressed. And we're told that rulers should do as little as possible to avoid conflict, and should keep their subjects' brains empty and their stomachs full to prevent them from rebelling. This version works harder than some others to make the whole thing seem understandable, beautiful, and spiritual, and it largely succeeds. I don't read Chinese and am not a scholar, so I don't know which translation is most accurate. This one is pleasant and has beautiful pictures. I use it sometimes in the morning as part of preparing for the day.

For English speakers, the Tao Te Ching can be known only through translations. This makes the skill and heart of the translator extremely important. The connotations or context of a Chinese idiom, if literally translated, can confuse or even defeat the true meaning. This edition of the Tao Te Ching is accessible and full of life. Moreover, idioms such as "straw dogs" are not left in a literal form that may make them confusing or confound the purpose of the passage. At the same time, the Tao Te Ching in my humble opinion is a multi-faceted work. One of the intriguing things about it is that in the Chinese it is open to several different interpretations, which may all be correct in a sense. Those of us who do not read or comprehend ancient Chinese instead must read the translations. Another favorite translation is Mitchell's, which draws on his experience with the Tao Te Ching's grandchild, Zen. I also enjoy the more literally translated version from D.C. Lau, published by the Everyman Library. This translation by Star is very worthwhile, and might be the best single version.

My husband, our grown daughter & I started a spiritual renewal group amongst us. This book is a great way to begin. We choose a reading, meditate on it (which often leads us to other related materials) and journal about our experience. Then we meet as a group to discuss our experiences. This book, this version of The Tao Te Ching: 81 Verses by Lao Tzu (of which there are literally hundreds of versions in print,) easily lends itself to such a group format. It is also excellent for individual study as I often find myself doing when the others are not available. There is no beginning and no end, just choose a verse and you're offThe book is well-sized for taking along in a briefcase, handbag or a large pocket for going to work or the park, or where ever. The verses are short with a brief follow-up to help get you started on your meditation journey for the day. I would highly recommend this book for the above reasons as well as the quality of the book and its price. , as always delivers quickly and efficiently (especially if you're an Prime Member -- free 2 day shipping on any "Prime"-designated item.)

This little book is literally pocked-sized and quite perfectly so. I brought it with me to USMC boot camp and it conveniently fit in not only my trouser pockets, but also my front breast pockets. Its beautiful metaphors helped me clear my mind and aided me as a distraction through the tougher times during training. I highly recommend it to anyone who appreciates a peaceful philosophy with symbolic metaphors on the go.

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