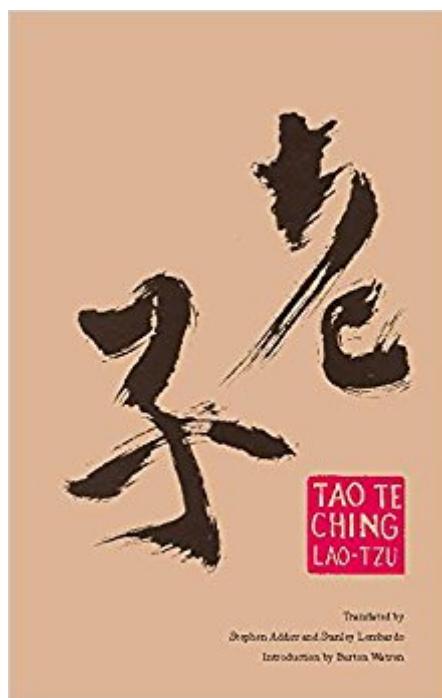


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Tao Te Ching (Hackett Classics)



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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this book because other reviewers touted it highly. I ordered a copy and it had a minor printing error in Chapter 76 but nothing so bad that I had to return it, so you may want to check your copy for printing errors. As for the translation itself it is very lucid. The translators use very few words so that the text reads much like the original Chinese which is almost like a telegram. I have read several versions of the TTC and most are creative interpretations of the words. This is a much more literal translation. There is no commentary in the book like Derek Lin's TTC Tao Te Ching (Skylight Illuminations) but it is very easy to understand most of the book at face value. However there are a few chapters that one has to have a gentle approach with. Chapter 71 especially, at first, seemed very cryptic. But with the help of the Chinese characters written on the side of the page I was able to

find what it meant with the help of an online Chinese translator. Most of the book is very smooth and I tend to read the Tao Te Ching in a meditative sort of way. I don't try to penetrate the text with my reason, rather, I read it very lightly so that when I face a new situation in my life the words pop up in my head and I can instantly relate to what Lao Tzu was saying. If you're looking for a good translation without a lot of the interpretations of the translator pick up this volume. Prof. Watson's introduction is also worth reading, though it was written 17 years ago so there is a lot more accurate understanding of ancient China now which might contradict some of his ideas. The calligraphy by Prof. Addiss was also appealing.

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