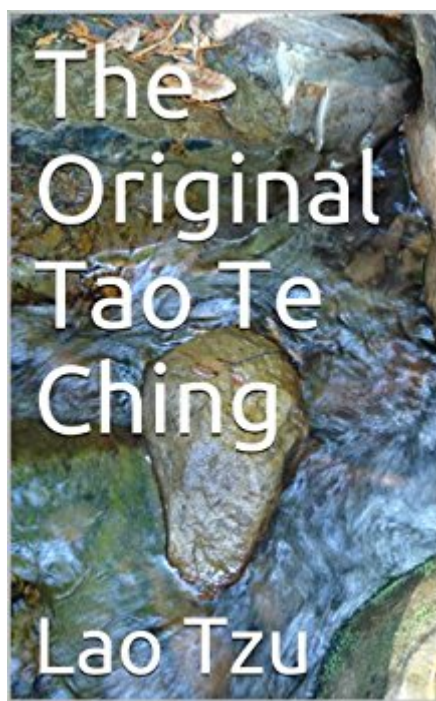


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The Original Tao Te Ching



Synopsis

The Tao Te Ching is one of the most beloved books of Eastern wisdom. It is ascribed to Lao Tzu, a Master Lao, identified as Lao Tan, an archivist of the Chou dynasty in pre-imperial China. The book was reorganized several centuries later, and thousands of commentaries were written on it. Ancient versions discovered in the twentieth century follow the old order as confirmed by the earliest extant commentary, Interpreting Lao, written by the famous philosopher Han Fei in the third century BC. The present translation is based on these ancient texts.

Book Information

File Size: 765 KB

Print Length: 120 pages

Publication Date: May 11, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0082GYYN8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #50,594 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #6 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts > Taoism #6 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts > Tao Te Ching #18 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts > Tao Te Ching

Customer Reviews

Tao Te Ching is ancient, now a couple of millenia in print. Stephen Mitchell has not translated this classic, but rather has paraphrased it -- as he admits in the Foreward. But he is a Zen student of a couple of decades and has good insight into the Zen of the Tao (Zen Buddhism is Buddhism heavily dosed with Taoism). Mitchell's version of the Tao Te Ching is very, even extremely, modern.

Perhaps to the point of being "politically correct." However, he does have a way with words and this is a very readable version of the Tao. To show how modern it is, let's take an example and compare his version of the beginning of chapter 46 with two other versions:- Mitchell "When a country is in

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