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Tao Te Ching Illustrated



Lao-Tzu

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Synopsis

Lao-tzu's Tao Te Ching, or Book of the Way, is the classic manual on the art of living, and one of the wonders of the world. In eighty-one brief chapters, the Tao Te Ching looks at the basic predicament of being alive and gives advice that imparts balance and perspective, a serene and generous spirit. This book is about wisdom in action. It teaches how to work for the good with the effortless skill that comes from being in accord with the Tao (the basic principle of the universe) and applies equally to good government and sexual love; to child rearing, business, and ecology. This version is illustrated with beautiful illustrations by Totoya Hokkei a Japanese artist best known for his prints in the ukiyo-e style. *illustrations by other artists presented too also you will find a FREE Audio-Book for your enjoyment.

Book Information

File Size: 1191 KB

Print Length: 52 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: January 29, 2016

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01B9WDTUU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #52,764 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Buddhism > Sacred Writings #7 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts > Tao Te Ching #7 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts > Taoism

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 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." Obviously, there were no factories, trucks, tractors, or warheads in ancient China. So, Mitchell is providing a modern interpretation of the Tao Te Ching, while Mair as well as Addiss & Lombardo are closer to a literal translation (which is not possible however, because the Chinese language and the English language are so completely different from one another.) None of this is to find fault with Stephen Mitchell. This is just to say that his book cannot be definitive, because it is less literal and not really a translation.

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