



Tao Te Ching (Hackett Classics)

By Lao-Tzu, Stephen Addiss, Stanley Lombardo, Burton Watson

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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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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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.

Review

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

About the Author

Stephen Addiss is Tucker-Boatwright Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Art History, University of Richmond.

Stanley Lombardo is Professor of Classics, University of Kansas.

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