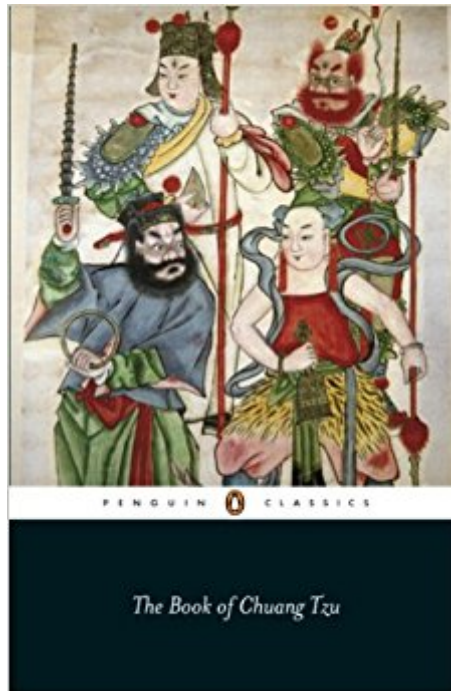




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The Book Of Chuang Tzu (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

A masterpiece of ancient Chinese philosophy, second in influence only to the Tao Te Ching. One of the founders of Taoism, Chuang Tzu was firmly opposed to Confucian values of order, control, and hierarchy, believing the perfect state to be one where primal, innate nature rules. Full of profundity as well as tricks, knaves, sages, jokers, unbelievably named people, and uptight Confucians, The Book of Chuang Tzu perceives the Tao-the Way of Nature- not as a term to be explained but as a path to walk. Radical and subversive, employing wit, humor, and shock tactics, The Book of Chuang Tzu offers an intriguing look deep into Chinese culture. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Chinese --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Taoist author named Chuang-tzu is estimated to have lived in the fourth century BCE, between

399 and 255 BCE. Martin Palmer is Director of the International Consultancy on Religion, Education and Culture. Currently he is working with the China Taoist Association on a project to protect the main Taoist sacred Mountains of China.

This is my first reading of the Zhuangzi and I have been captivated by the stories and words so ably translated by Martin Palmer and his colleagues. For a first time reader of this Daoist classic, Palmer is an excellent introduction as he let's the text teach and unfold with little interference. My best compliment is that this translation has provided the necessary energy to enter the text and life of the Zhuangzi, the Laozi, and the Liehzi with vigor and hopes for a deeper understanding of the relational dynamics that formed the foundation for early and later Daoism.

Wonderful. This was my first exposure to Chuang Tzu and I found the writings to be insightful; as well as, entertaining and humorous. This book challenged me to think of life differently. I spent much time reflecting on and quietly contemplating the philosophies/ideas presented.

This is a great version of the Chuang Tzu containing all of the Inner, Outer and Miscellaneous chapters. Martin Palmer begins the book with a well written and educational preface and introduction going into the details of his translation and the Taoist concepts and ideas in the book. He states: "The Book of Chuang Tzu is like a travelogue. As such, it meanders between continents, pauses to discuss diet, gives exchange rates, breaks off to speculate, offers a bus timetable, tells an amusing incident, quotes from poetry, relates a story, cites scripture." "And always listen out for the mocking laughter of Chuang Tzu. This can be heard most when you start to make grand schemes out of the bits, or wondrous philosophies out of the hints and jokes. For ultimately this is not one book but a variety of voices swapping stories and bouncing ideas off each other, with Chuang Tzu striding through the whole, joking, laughing, arguing and interrupting." Indeed the Chuang Tzu does all these things. Providing a fascinating and enlightening glimpse, using heavy doses of humor and wit, into the path of Tao. Experience is all.

This book offers a new perspective of the world in a way that is interesting, thought provoking, and timeless. It is not a particularly difficult read, but it has a lot to it. Definitely worth reading more than once.

great condition, wonderful book

Great translation

Were I to have one book on that proverbial desert island, the Zhuangzi would be it. Chuang-Tzu (Zhuangzi) speaks to my heart like no other both in the content of his "teachings" and in presentation. And this particular translation is both very readable, though I have come to prefer Brook Ziporyn's.

A classic.

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