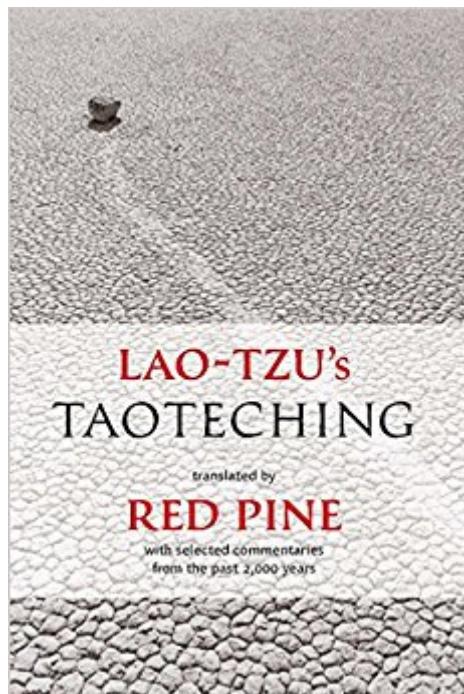


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Lao-tzu's Taoteching



Synopsis

One of the best-selling English-language translations of the *Taoteching*.¹ A refreshing new translation. . . . Highly recommended.² Library Journal³ With its clarity and scholarly range, this version of the *Taoteching* works as both a readable text and a valuable resource of Taoist interpretation.⁴ Publishers Weekly⁵ Read it in confidence that it comes as close as possible to expressing the Chinese text in English.⁶ Victor Mair, professor of Chinese studies, University of Pennsylvania Lao-tzu's *Taoteching* is an essential volume of world literature, and Red Pine's⁷ nuanced and authoritative English translation⁸ reissued and published with the Chinese text en face⁹ is one of the best-selling versions. Features that set this volume apart from other translations are its commentaries by scores of Taoist scholars, poets, monks, recluses, adepts, and emperors spanning more than two thousand years. ¹⁰ I envisioned this book, Red Pine notes in his introduction, ¹¹ as a discussion between Lao-tzu and a group of people who have thought deeply about his text.¹² Sages have no mind of their own¹³ their mind is the mind of the people¹⁴ to the good they are good¹⁵ to the bad they are good¹⁶ until they become good¹⁷ to the true they are true¹⁸ to the false they are true¹⁹ until they become true . . . Lao-tzu (ca. 600 BCE) was a Chinese sage who Confucius called ²⁰ a dragon among men. Red Pine is one of the world's foremost translators of Chinese literary and religious texts. His books include *The Heart Sutra*, *Poems of the Masters*, and a collection of all the known poems by the mountain hermit Han Shan, *The Collected Songs of Cold Mountain*.

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Customer Reviews

Red Pine (a.k.a. Bill Porter) offers a new perspective on the Chinese classic *Taoteching*. A competent translator and interpreter of Chinese religion, he renders his work with an eye for detail and a spiritualism cultivated during years of Zen monastery living. It's odd that many read translations of Chinese classics as bare-bones texts, whereas no Chinese would tackle such obscurity in the absence of a helping hand from previous pundits. Fortunately, it is no longer necessary to rely on mystical insight in order to understand the *Taoteching*. Instead, we can look to the 12 or so commentators that Red Pine resurrects from Chinese history. With its clarity and scholarly range, this version of the *Taoteching* works as both a readable text and a valuable resource of Taoist interpretation. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Here is a refreshing new translation by an American scholar of Chinese (Guide to Capturing a Plum, Mercury House, 1995) that offers a simple version of this great sixth-century B.C. work. Accompanying each of the 81 verses are brief commentaries by scholars ancient and modern, plus an appended glossary explaining who they are. Many translations appear, in comparison, to be needlessly personalized and poetic. Here, one feels, are the bare bones, shining brightly. There is also an introductory background essay on what is known of this gnomish founder of Taoist philosophy. Chinese characters for each verse are included. Highly recommended for academic and large public libraries.?Jeanne S. Bagby, formerly with Tucson P.L., Ariz.Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Excellent. Hard book to translate because it is alluding to something essentially that words only 'point' to. Many versions have very interesting interpretations, but this seems to help get closer to the meaning of the original scripts without anything additional for me. Chinese script is adjacent to English which helps the Chinese language reader. Red pine does us a service again, my favorite of his translations being the zen teaching of Bodhidharma, a complimentary book.

Great and concise translation without additions or embellishments that often mar translations. Great feature is that each verse is accompanied by short quotes from Chinese commentaries through the ages.

I'm drawn to the simplicity and spirit of this translation, compared to others.

An incredible translation with rich commentaries

I like the translation. I like that other Chinese sages comments were included. The commentaries were short and very helpful to understanding the text. Excellent book for someone who wants to understand the Tao de Ching.

good read & reference

I study Traditional Chinese Medicine as well as Qigong and my Qigong master quotes Lao Tzu often so this book is really awesome.

If you are looking for a deeper understanding of the Tao te ching this is a great book.

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