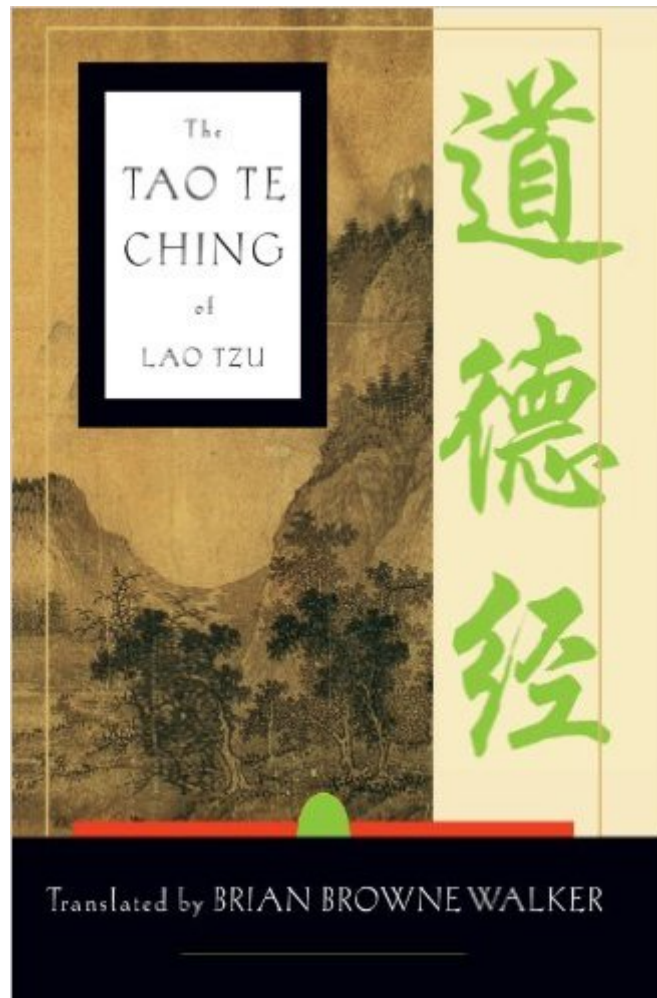


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The Tao Te Ching Of Lao Tzu



Synopsis

The Tao te Ching of Lao Tzu is one of the most widely read and deeply cherished books in the world, a work many consider the wisest book ever written. In his introduction, translator Brian Browne Walker says, "It is less a book than a living, breathing angel." In his new translation, Walker stays close to the direct literal accuracy of the Chinese characters while producing a modern, exceptionally clear version that has the ring and voice of Lao Tzu, a man who may or may not have been a single individual. "I have come to think of Lao Tzu less as a man who once lived," Walker writes, "and more as a song that plays, eternal and abiding."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Walker's version of the Tao Te Ching is by far the most beautiful and has (at least, for me) the clearest and deepest meaning. This is the the book that has taught me the most about the tao; this is the translation from which I read to my son. I hope you read it.

This may sound like a silly or a comical name for a review of a book that I consider to be the best translation of the TTC to read while going through the dark times in one's life. But I found Brian Browne Walker's translation of the Tao te Ching while going through a really bad divorce, multiple surgeries, and an all around crappy time in my life. And it spoke to me, as if ole Laozi was there beside me, reading it to me himself. While I study Red Pine's translation of the TTC much of the time now, I have a really special place in my heart for Mr. Walker's translation. It's written by a man who

KNOWS disaster, and devastation, and a man who has also walked through it all to the other side, and out of the shadows, and into the light of a life, well lived. Walker translates the Tao te Ching with PASSION, and as other reviewers also mention, with clarity. If you are going through a hard time in your own life, I encourage you to buy a copy of Brian Browne Walker's translation of the TTC, and let it speak to YOU, just as it did, and STILL DOES, to ME.

I have read many different translations of Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching. Mr. Walker's translation opens up to the reader a whole new realm of Tao philosophy with beautiful, insightful words which more perfectly capture the essence of Lao Tzu's thoughts and philosophy. Lao Tzu was one of the greatest philosophers and sages of our planet, and Mr. Brian Walker is the individual alive today who is most in tune with the ancient bodhisattva's thoughts. This book is well worth the money as it comforts an individual in any possible situation. The wisdom of the Tao is eternal, and this translation of the Tao Te Ching captures its essence better than any other translation I have come across

I had read many translations of the tao te ching and I'm happy to say that Mr. Walker's version is readable, smooth and filled with clarity. It is a good translation because he explained the tao te ching without sounding so cryptic. Instead, he explained with great clarity that even a five-year-old kid will appreciate. Again, I recommend this translation and thank you, Mr. Walker.

Of the approximately one-dozen translations of the Tao Te Ching that I have read, this is my least favorite. The translation sometimes strays into surprisingly shallow waters. Mr. Walker, in an apparent attempt to "modernize" the Tao Te Ching, has simply diluted its strength. Mr. Walker's pronoun usage further weakens the timelessness of this classic text. The Tao Te Ching, in its original, uses gender-neutral language. The best translations retain this neutrality. Mr. Walker, unfortunately, uses gender-specific pronouns -- sometimes masculine and sometimes feminine. This "modernization" distracts from the power and universality of the Tao Te Ching's ideas. The book is very handsome, though. If you're looking for a modern yet more faithful and powerful translation -- one with depth and bite -- I recommend two: one by Ellen Chen, and one by Derek Lin. Both are excellent, and both include excellent commentary, too.

So far this is the best translation of the Tao Te Ching I have come across. I have tried the often recommended version by Stephen Mitchell, (which Brian Walker also recommends), but I just did

not connect with it. It surprised me that I preferred Walker's version because it is the more literal translation, so I expected it to be less poetic and moving than Mitchell's version. On the contrary though, I found Walker's version to be much more poetic and moving. Another reviewer has commented that Walker states this is not a strict translation. For me, I am not much concerned whether a version is a literal translation, or more of a "rendition". What matters to me is whether I connect with the words. I'm not qualified to say how literal Walker's translation is, but to put the other reviewers comment into perspective, let me quote from Walker's forward: "I have endeavored in my own to stay as close as possible to the direct literal translation of the Chinese characters; in a very few places, it proved impossible to do that and get the proper idea across, and in those instances I have used the minimal amount of poetic license necessary to effectively communicate the teaching." In any case, you can compare the first several poems from both versions here on . I suggest you compare each side by side and then get the version you connect with most.

I was very pleased at the translation given to this book. I was rather pleased with this book by Walker, although the same feeling was not shared with his interpretation of the Unknown writings of Lao Tzu. I would advise, though that one should read MANY interpretations of the Tao Te Ching, and interpret each one unto himself

My reading of Walker's translation takes meaning from its poetic power to shine a light inward. This is the scope and praxis of the Tao to move one toward heroic self reliance. Moreover, this translation is the most assessable one I've read. Each chapter, each verse, provides a moment of contemplation to look not only at one's inner landscape, but to measure the contemporary moment we find ourselves and reflecting back the places where we are unbalanced. This book is a living meditation which illuminates the Tao in every step, every significant moment we take forward. I've given this book to friends for gifts. I've used it as a primer for guidance. But most importantly, I've used it to transform my own life. Other translations of the Tao Te Ching are overly academic missing the simplistic unfolding of the moment we live in. One won't find that type of corruption in Walker's translation. I read passages from this book everyday, and what I find is that its wisdom has seeped into the core of my being, and softened the contours of my thinking mind, and wild heart. I believe this is what Lao Tzu had in mind in writing this masterpiece of human wisdom. Further, my guess is that Lao Tzu himself would be able to take refuge in the pages of this book with both a smile on his or her face, and provide a knowing nod that Walker captures the heart and essence of the Tao.

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