

The Essential Chuang Tzu

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the chuang tzu has been translated into english numerous times but never with the freshness accessibility and accuracy of this remarkable rendering here the immediacy of chuang tzu s language is restored in a idiom that is both completely fresh and true to the original text this unique collaboration between one of america s premier poet translators and a leading chinese scholar presents the so called inner chapters of the text along with important selections from other chapters thought to have been written by chuang tzu s disciples

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ideal for students and scholars alike this edition of zhuangzi chuang tzu includes the complete inner chapters extensive selections from the outer and miscellaneous chapters and judicious selections from two thousand years of traditional chinese commentaries which provide the reader access to the text as well as to its reception and interpretation a glossary brief biographies of the commentators a bibliography and an index are also included

the two classics of chinese philosophy together they form the basic texts of taoism

the ancient chinese text known as chuang tzu has been translated into english many times but never with the freshness accessibility and accuracy of this remarkable rendering the result of a unique collaboration between one of america s premier poet translators and a leading chinese scholar at turns playful and acerbic the book presents a philosophy of life that is politically radical and deeply spiritual

this volume is a translation of over two thirds of the classic daoist text zhuangzi chuang tzu including the complete inner chapters and extensive selections from the outer and miscellaneous chapters plus judicious selections from 2000 years of traditional chinese commentaries which provide the reader access to the text as well as to its reception and interpretation brief biographies of the commentators a bibliography a glossary and an index are also included

the timeless wisdom of this classic taoist text can become a companion on your own spiritual journey the chuang tzu is the second major text of the taoist tradition it was compiled in the third century bce and follows the lead of the best known and oldest of all taoist texts the tao te ching book of the tao and its potency representing the philosophy of its main author chuang chou along with several other early taoist strands the text has inspired spiritual seekers for over two thousand years using parable anecdote allegory and paradox the chuang tzu presents the central message of what was to become the taoist school a reverence for the tao the way of the natural world and the belief that you are not truly virtuous until you are free from the burden of circumstance personal attachments tradition and the desire to reform the world in this special skylight illuminations edition leading taoist scholar livia kohn phd provides a fresh modern translation of key selections from this timeless text to open up classic taoist beliefs and practices she provides insightful accessible commentary that highlights the chuang tzu s call to reject artificially imposed boundaries and distinctions and illustrates how you can live a more balanced authentic and joyful life at ease in perfect happiness by following taoist principles

skill and mastery philosophical stories from the zhuangzi presents an illuminating analysis of skill stories from the zhuangzi a 4th century bce daoist text in this intriguing text that subverts conventional norms and pursuits ordinary activities such as swimming cicada catching and wheelmaking are executed with such remarkable efficacy and spontaneity that they seem like magical feats an international team of scholars explores these stories in their philosophical historical and political contexts their analyses highlight the stories underlying conceptions of agency character and cultivation and relevance to contemporary debates on human action and experience the result is a valuable collection opening up new lines of inquiry in comparative east west philosophical debates on skill cultivation and mastery as well as cross disciplinary debates in psychology cognitive science and philosophy

classic writings from the great zen master in exquisite versions by thomas merton in a new edition with a preface by his holiness the dalai lama working from existing translations thomas merton composed a series of his own versions of the classic sayings of chuang tzu the most spiritual of chinese philosophers chuang tzu who wrote in the fourth and third centuries b c is the chief authentic historical spokesperson for taoism and its founder lao tzu a legendary character known largely through chuang tzu s writings indeed it was because of chuang tzu and the other taoist sages that indian buddhism was transformed in china into the unique vehicle we now call by its japanese name zen the chinese sage abounds in wit and paradox and shattering insights into the true ground of being thomas merton no stranger to asian thought brings a vivid modern idiom to the timeless wisdom of tao

this is thomas cleary s translation of two classic chinese books describing the essential philosophy and practice of tao written long ago as maps of the way tao te ching and chuang tzu cleary s bold new translations restore as no other translations have yet done the remarkable power and mind opening distinctiveness of the original chinese

composed in china over two thousand years ago and widely regarded as classics of world literature as well as honored for their practical wisdom the tao te ching and chuang tzu cover a wide range of subjects from politics and economy to psychology and mysticism from strategies for managing stress and maintaining health to ways to strengthen one s consciousness in a turbulent world together these texts present the philosophical and practical core of classical taoism while making taoism s teachings more accessible than ever before to the western reader few of the world s great books writes cleary in his introduction have achieved the perennial currency of these writings countless readers have found endless fascination and enlightenment in the pregnant aphorisms and fantastic allegories of these ancient classics over the centuries the tao te ching in particular has inspired many social and spiritual movements as well as a vast body of exegetical literature at one time state colleges of mysticism were established by the chinese government for the study of the philosophy of the tao te ching and individuals who had mastered it were sought as advisers by people of all classes from emperors to peasants even when the taoist canon was torched by order of the mongol ruler of china in 1280 the tao te ching alone was spared destruction here is wonderful insightful reading richly enhanced by cleary s introduction and commentary book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

profound insight and wisdom from the world s great cultures and religious traditions through the use of a story you can understand even the deepest truths these words taken from a jewish parable underscore the power of candles in the dark this exquisite collection of profound and enlightening parables contains the wisdom and insight of the world s great religions philosophies and cultural traditions in these stories you ll find spiritual inspiration and practical guidance to help you cope with life s many problems and conflicts christian and buddhist jewish and islamic african and native american ancient and modern parables these wonderfully diverse and entertaining stories address every aspect of life from family issues to personal freedom from money problems to the power of friendship they will help you discover truth beauty and satisfaction within yourself and in the world around you the lessons they teach will deepen your understanding of basic human and spiritual truths and increase your ability to live a life of faith hope and love appreciate the beauty that surrounds you embrace the freedom to live your life seek and find guidance discover strength in a virtuous life encourage others who are in need

chuang tzu considered along with lao tzu one of the great figures of early taoist thought used parables and anecdotes allegory and paradox to illustrate that real happiness and freedom are found only in understanding the tao or way of nature and dwelling in its unity the respected trappist monk thomas merton spent several years reading and reflecting upon four different translations of the chinese classic that bears chuang tzu s name the result is this collection of poetic renderings of the great sage s work that conveys its spirit in a way no other translation has and that was merton s personal favorite among his more than fifty books both prose and verse are included here as well as a short section from merton discussing the most salient themes of chuang tzu s teachings

experimental essays on zhuangzi is a classic in the field originally published in 1983 this edition makes it available again in an expanded version with four additional contributions and in an updated format with pinyin transcription chinese characters embedded in the text and reference style notes the work is a well respected textbook and essential reader in daoist thought it continues to constitute an essential contribution to the study of daoism and chinese philosophy

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