**Tao Te Ching**

an annotated bibliography, Ouwehand

**TEXT**

-- preface looks insightfully at translating Chinese characters; inclusion of one line of each poem in Chinese plus same line in Chinese ideograms; ink paintings throughout; glossary of Chinese characters

-- tries to get at Lao Tzu’s original philosophical concepts; page-length commentaries on each chapter, plus notes regarding Mawangdui and Guodian mss. comparisons; very good intro. featuring a solid discussion of “correlative cosmology” and some historical background

-- very informative introduction illumines the relationship betw. writings of Lao Tzu & those of Confucius, their influence on subsequent Chinese philosophies, & gives historical background to these writers’ times; helpful paraphrases & footnotes

-- author has much background in Asian philosophy


-- very scholarly; great resource; lots of notes, explanation, commentary

UCSB, BL1900.L26 E5 1989 ---an explicating commentary; excellent resource

-- notes on every poem

-- astute and measured translation (it walks the middle way betw. dynamic equivalent & formal correspondence); concise, sensitive, accessible without losing the sense of challenge and mystery; Needleman’s introduction is splendid

-- very much a dynamic equivalence approach; very contemporary; caution advised


UCSB, BL1900.L25 E5 1989; SBCC, 299.514 L298TH -- unearthed in 1973, the Mawandui (or silk mss.) were the oldest mss. of the Lao Tzu, dating to c. 200BCE until the Guodian discovery; significant as the Tao and Te canons are reversed!

-- the only English translation to date of the archaeological discovery near Guodia, China of a version of the Lao Tzu on bamboo slips; representing only 40% of what we’ve come to know as the Received Text; this is the oldest ms. now, c.300BCE

-- excellent on history of times! Nice, brief glossary


-- translation is scholarly, fairly formal diction; excellent footnotes that often give insight into historical or religious context; informative introduction; glossary of historical books, names, places; shows where rhyming would have appeared in orig.

--very cheap republication of Legge’s essential early translation--well worth just to see

-- Le Guin’s personal and poetic rendition is intuitive & fresh; observational notes

-- shows other texts influenced by TTC; in Mawangdui order; very informative intro.
-- based on discovered (in 1973) Ma-Wang-tui mss., that reverses the canons of te & tao; etymological glossary; discussion of orality theory; proposal for Indian-yogic connection with Taoism – Tao Te Ching // Bhagavad Gita & Upanishads

-- very dynamic equivalent; read in comparison w/others for contemporary feel

-- good intro. w/timeline

-- a must have due to the historical commentaries included—gives a glimpse into the interpretive history; interesting yet fairly brief intro.

-- the translation tends to be stiff due to diction and form choices (he tries to rhyme where orig. did); commentaries after each chapter and extensive notes; makes comparisons with the Mawangdui and Guodian texts; informative introduction

-- focused on the challenge of translation, this hard-cover book offers verbatim translation for every character in every poem & includes commentary; sounds like an essential resource for really getting at the original text, but I’ve not yet used it


-- a dynamic equivalent approach; for the reader-lite


-- thoughtful, sensitive, middle way approach to translation; has facing page Chinese characters; but, NO notes, commentary, intro. !
Large pictorial books


-- calligraphy by Feng, photography by English; no forward by Needleman


Context & Commentary


-- its intro & commentaries are geared toward interpreting the text per a specific angle of Western philosophy, primarily that of Heidegger—an interesting read


-- a selected look into the two essential texts of Taoism includes a chapter on historical background of the two books & the rise of the philosophy

-- excellent book for anyone interested in Taoism and its relationship with the I Ching

-- excellent look at the many connections between Taoism & Buddhism!

-- point here is that all 4 said much the same in different times & places; I recommend

-- good resource for scholarship, includes ancient mythology, Chinese interpretations, modern readings, & critical attention to language issues


-- drawn from the work of Lao Tzu’s follower Chuang Tzu and Confucius’s grandson Tzu Ssu; great look at how the TTC influenced both lines of thought & their convergences; excellent intro. & commentaries


-- an exploration into the Tao Te Ching & Taoist philosophical concepts, making their complexities accessible; wonderfully illustrated with Chinese calligraphy

-- small book; good for getting the basics

SBCC, 299.514 L298TW UCSB, BL1900.L26 E5 1982b

-- selected excerpts from Taoist spiritual traditions categorized and with some comment; shamanic origins; devotional, mystical, alchemical, ceremonial texts; longevity; variety of texts which make up the larger Taoist canon

SBCC, 299.514 L298T16

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