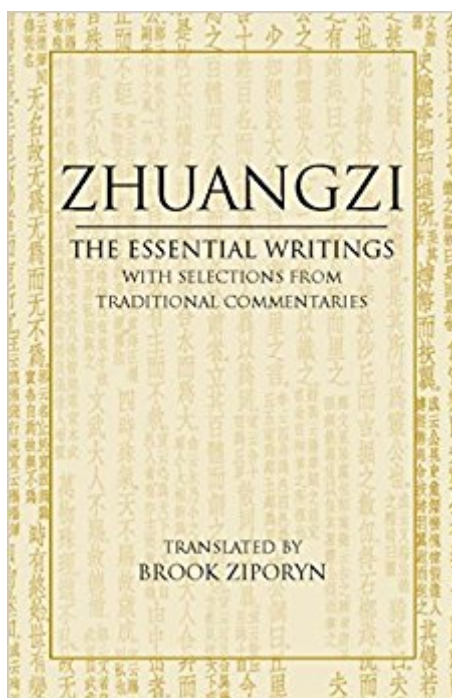


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Zhuangzi: The Essential Writings: With Selections From Traditional Commentaries (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

Series: Hackett Classics

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. (March 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0872209113

ISBN-13: 978-0872209114

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #61,884 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts > Taoism #52 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Taoism

Customer Reviews

The Zhuangzi, with its 'goblet words,' lends itself by design to endless interpretation, of which no single instance has any real claim to the 'correct' meaning of the text. To date, Zhuangzi translations have presented their readers with only a single view of the text--that of the translator himself. With Ziporyn's book, the English world finally has the means to read the Zhuangzi the way it should be read: through the eyes of many. Ziporyn has carefully selected the most illuminating passages to be found within several of the most brilliant Zhuangzi commentaries written over the past two millennia, and he has rendered these often abstruse interpretations, along with the key Zhuangzi chapters which form their subject, accurately and lucidly into flowing English prose. This extraordinary work sets the new standard for Zhuangzi translations, and will prove an indispensable resource for anyone who wishes to take a comprehensive view of this most timeless and boundless of Chinese philosophical classics. --Scott Cook, Grinnell College
In Ziporyn, the Zhuangzi has found a worthy translator who brings both philosophical and Sinological acumen to the book. . . . Readers

encounter not only the primary text in a fluid, readable translation, but also may refer to selected commentaries on particular passages with ease. . . . His translation offers a splendid portal into the thought of one of the funniest philosophers of all time. --Jeffrey L. Richey, Berea College

With judicious abridgement (sixteen full chapters, including all seven Inner chapters, plus selections from six more) and valuable added commentary, this book is a great choice for the undergraduate classroom. The translation often provides a fresh perspective to old problems, and the selection of commentary delivers a focus and accessibility that engages and encourages us to re-engage the considerable commentarial tradition. The translation is a delight. Ziporyn's lucid prose is often a marked improvement over his predecessors. . . . Footnotes are more plentiful than in the previous translations and are especially helpful with a text like the Zhuangzi. The selections from traditional commentaries are the most innovative feature of this translation, in keeping with Edward Slingerland's *Analects* and Bryan Van Norden's *Mengzi* translations (also from Hackett). Ziporyn provides extracts from forty-seven commentators that offer valuable contextualization as well as a variety of perspectives from which to approach the text. Overall Ziporyn's translation is smooth, clear and accurate, his notes are helpful, and his commentary selections bring new and welcome dimensions to the text as textbook and as an aid for scholarly research. --Paul Fischer, American University in Cairo, in *Philosophy East & West*

Brook Ziporyn is Associate Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Northwestern University.

This book came in good condition, and it worked well for class, even though I would not read it on my own.

I bought because I was looking for a copy of Zhuangzi, but wasn't able to find any good free translations. This one is very well done, and the traditional commentaries are a very nice touch. The translator has put a lot of effort into making the text easy to understand for people who don't have background in Chinese literature. Tricky or ambiguous spots will have a nice footnote with another possible translation or extra info you need to understand the passage. It has a glossary and points out key words that are the same in the original Chinese when they are translated in somewhat different ways according to how the English flows; this can be somewhat important to understand some of the arguments that are used based on the wording of the Chinese. The only downside is this doesn't contain the entire Zhuangzi. The inner chapters are fully present, but the translator has chosen to translate from the other parts when they support ideas from the inner chapters.

meaty philosophy good edition

A work of dazzling scholarly endeavor. A great resource in terms of providing lots of information to supplement your reading experience.

This is by far the best translation and scholarly treatment of the Zhuangzi in English.

i found the text obtuse enough to make me ponder, yet accessible enough to be applicable on a day-to-day basis.

I really love Zhuangzi; they are my favorite taoist texts. The translator has bent over backwards to explain the concepts present in an approachable fasion, often offering multiple possible translations.

This book is a great read.. Its very welll written and mind opening. I hope to find more titles like this in the future...

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