



The Tao Speaks: Lao-Tzu's Whispers of Wisdom

Tsai Chih Chung (Illustrator) , Brian Bruya (Translator) , Lao Tzu (Contributor)

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A profoundly wise and humorous rendering of the classic Chinese text on military strategy, as told through the delightful Chinese cartoon panels of best-selling author Tsai Chih Chung.

The Tao Speaks: Lao-Tzu's Whispers of Wisdom Details

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Author : Tsai Chih Chung (Illustrator) , Brian Bruya (Translator) , Lao Tzu (Contributor)

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From Reader Review The Tao Speaks: Lao-Tzu's Whispers of Wisdom for online ebook

Jon(athan) Nakapalau says

Who would have thought that Lao-Tzu in "comic" form would be such a great fit!

Patrick says

"Rulers create disasters by giving free reign to their desires, which leads them to invade other countries, causing death and destruction on all sides."

Another classic adapted and illustrated by Tsai Chih Chung and translated by Brian Bruya.

PvOberstein says

The Tao Speaks is an illustrated adaptation of the Tao Te Ching, by Taiwanese artist Tsai Chih Chung. The book provides a great visual aid to understanding the core teachings of Laozi and Taoist thought in general.

Tsai's illustrations do a good job of visualizing somewhat esoteric or abstract philosophical concepts, providing intuitive understandings of concepts such as being-nothing. Some of the axioms still come off as a little Kabbalistic, admittedly, the logic under-girded mostly by symbolic parallels with nature.

The actual philosophy of Laozi, from what I understood, was a little less appealing than I'd hoped. There's a emphasis on harmony, serenity and attachment, but also strains of anti-intellectual and what feels like an opposition to self-improvement. Laozi's philosophy of governance, while certainly sounding enlightened, surprisingly reminded me of libertarian ideals, where government is just a big, corrupting influence which keeps people from pursuing their naturally harmonious desires. Similar to from what I recall from Plato, with that belief that people don't actually need laws. It's intuitively appealing but doesn't seem that supported by the historical record.

Cat says

Followed up "zen speaks" with this one. Still just as enjoyable as it ever was.

Mary Catelli says

This is a cartoon version of the Dao Te Ching. Quite well done. Sometimes the cartoons do a great deal to illustrate the meaning of the more cryptic sayings. Even when it's fairly straightforward, the picture of water eroding through stone nicely underscores it.

It also has some biographical data -- some traditional biographical data -- about Lao-Tzu. Who is said to have written the Dao Te Ching when he was living the country, after a border guard asked him to write some words of wisdom before his departure. And about the time Confucius visited him.

When the author had four such cartoon books in the four top slots of Taiwan's bestseller list, the list started to exclude cartoon books to keep him off.?

Gloria Sun says

After reading Nietzsche, Lao Tzu's philosophy was like a breath of fresh air. This book is "The Way and the Virtue" presented in a simple, cartoon format, with both Chinese and English text (I read the English but would read the Chinese once in a while to confirm the meaning). What I find interesting is that even though Lao Tzu didn't know about the existence of a God, the conclusions he came to through his meditations are comparable to Christian beliefs. For example, "to give is to better than to receive", "the lowly shall be exalted", the preaching of humility and not pursuit of empty pleasures, and the children are the most virtuous. Anyways, that's that.

Ian says

Taoism can be hard to digest and depending on your translation the Tao De Ching(Qing?...damn you pinyin! I never know how to spell anything anymore!) can be very hard to digest. This comic however is great and not intimidating. This is a great series of books. Get this book, Buddha speaks, Confucius Speaks, and Victor Mair's translation of the Art of War and you'll have a pretty good distillation of a quarter of the worlds philosophical underpinnings...in a nut shell.

Rachel says

A great introduction to Taoism. It's no stuffy, serious, heavy text. I found myself smiling and even giggling in a few spots. The comic book format is perfect because it takes a few pages for each "lesson" whereas it would be one paragraph in a book (gives you time to stew!)

Mario D'Amore says

Illuminante.
Illuminant.

Steve says

Decent, workman-like translation of the Tao with cool cartoons.

Karl says

The author/illustrator, Tsai Chih Chung once again uses ancient scriptures/writings as the basis for this book and while the illustrations are superb, and the overall concept unique, I enjoyed the stories in “Zen Speaks” a lot more, and that left me somewhat conflicted when writing this review. I realize that Tsai had no control over the original material and I don’t think a less than perfect rating should reflect on his contribution; however, I did REALLY enjoy “Zen Speaks” more and if a person had to choose between the two books, I would recommend that one over this one; hence, the 4 star rating.

Regardless of the rating, I believe that anyone wanting to learn more about the Tao will likely benefit from reading “The Tao Speaks.” The illustrations make the material interesting and more memorable than just reading text, and I found that the “Translator’s Preface” does a superb job of providing historical context to the period in China’s history when this book was written.

Dave says

A wonderful introduction to the tao. I've read parts of it once and wish deeply I could get a copy for myself.

Clícia says

Best book for beginners on daoism. This book is for the people who wants to understand the teachings of Laozi (Lao Tsu) in a very contemporary and easy way :)
serves as a preparation to understand the Tao Te Ching.
love to read and reread it.
