



# **The Complete Works of Lao Tzu: Tao Teh Ching & Hua Hu Ching**

*Lao Tzu , Hua-Ching Ni (Translator)*

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Written around 500 B.C., the 'Tao Teh Ching' is one of the most frequently translated and most cherished works in the world. 'The Complete Works of Lao Tzu' by Hua-Ching Ni is a remarkable elucidation of the famed 'Tao Teh Ching', the core of Taoist philosophy and a bridge to the subtle truth as well as a practical guideline for natural and harmonious living. Poetic and beautifully realized, this volumn contains one of the only written translations of the 'Hua Hu Ching.'

## The Complete Works of Lao Tzu: Tao Teh Ching & Hua Hu Ching Details

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# From Reader Review The Complete Works of Lao Tzu: Tao Teh Ching & Hua Hu Ching for online ebook

## Sean says

I did not like it for several reasons.

I have read many translations of the Tao Teh Ching, so I have a lot to compare the first half of this volume to. I know nothing of the original language, so I can make no assessment of the accuracy, but I can compare it to other translations. Based on that, I can say that I found this one to be clunky and unappealing. It was difficult and unpleasant to read.

I have never read any translation of the Hua Hu Ching before, but I read this one concurrently with Hua Hu Ching: The Unknown Teachings of Lao Tzu so that is my only point of reference. I was unhappy with Ni for not providing some introduction giving us something about his translation philosophy and how he chose to deal with certain words. (He did provide a brief mention of his approach to male vs female references, and I am glad for that.) The trouble is that while I was reading, there were all these odd phrases that I reasonably guess are not direct translations from the Chinese, but philosophically chosen English equivalents. But since he never tells us what the Chinese original of these phrases is, I can not compare his translation of this text to other translations of other texts I am familiar with. I don't know if the Hua Hu Ching is talking about the same thing as other texts. Heck, I can't even always tell when the word "tao" is the original behind a particular English phrase or word, so I can't even compare it to the Tao Teh Ching as I know it from other translations.

Also, I wish he had at least mentioned the confusing history of the text and the likely possibility that it was a fraud to begin with. Somehow, it felt like I was being conned. "Trust me, I know what I'm talking about!" I am sure that *as a taoist* reading this text just as taoist teaching is great--it does not matter if it is ancient or modern, Chinese or Mayan. If it is a reliable text for teaching taoist philosophy, then great! But for someone like me who wants to read it as an ancient text, with some connection to the Tao Teh Ching which I really like, then this volume is pretty much worthless.

And why is this text so very different than Hua Hu Ching: The Unknown Teachings of Lao Tzu? This is long, wordy, dialog prose; the other is concise verse. Rather suspicious.

For a cynical take on the Hua Hu Ching itself, read this short article: <http://taoism.net/tao/hua-hu-ching/>

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## Sara says

Wonderful book.

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## Dhananjay Shukla says

i never read this kind of word in any book of history.what an insight for this world,this life.

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## Lisa says

one of the best books ive read!

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## Alpi says

This book needs to be respected, to be read slowly daily to contemplate upon the truth and wisdom shared. Will always remain among the best books I've always read. Top 5 at the moment.

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## David Miller says

Reading this book is an experience I found to be both relaxing and intriguing, as I contemplated the principles of Taoism and my own customary worldview. Taoist philosophy poses a difficult challenge to many traditional ways of thinking, but its implications also offer a sense of comfort and peace.

The first part of this volume, the *Tao Teh Ching*, is older, shorter, and historically more likely to have been written by the actual Lao Tzu/Laozi. It consists mainly of short declarations about the Tao, variations on a few themes such as the forces of yin and yang, the illusory nature of all dualistic oppositions, and the ultimate futility of attempting to define the Tao with language. It contains many beautiful passages, and I found it to be a great reassurance.

The second book, the *Hua Hu Ching*, is much longer and denser. It takes the form of a dialogue between Lao Tzu and a disciple, and expounds on many of the same topics as the *Tao Teh Ching*, with some advice as to how to go about following its precepts. It also includes lengthy discussions of what I can only call Taoist cosmology/eschatology, and an interesting detour into a discussion of correct sexual practices.

I recommend a careful reading of both books, as it is easy to mistake Taoism for incomprehensible or meaningless generalities. There is something deeply meaningful about the insights of the *Tao Teh Ching*.

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## Edgar says

Your basic Taoism writings by the founder himself, Laozi. There are several translations of the *Tao Teh Ching*, but I don't think any of them capture the essence of what was written as well as this Translation and Elucidation by Hua Ching Ni, who himself is also Chinese and familiar with its oral traditions. Although an additional Taoist text, The *Hua Hu Ching*, is included, some scholars believe it was not written by Laozi because they can't find history of him writing it. Nonetheless, these texts are great to meditate upon the nature of Tao.

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## **Richard Newton says**

I am usually a bit wary of ancient books on eastern mysticism, religion or wisdom - this is simply because as a reader reading in English I usually find the translations unsatisfactory. They can be literal translations which are usually unintelligible without the cultural background or interpretations where you are left at the mercy of the interpreter who has to veer well away from the original to make it understandable.

I was recommended this by a Chinese friend who said it was a good balance of translation and interpretation.

The physical book consists of 2 books. The first is a well known book and on its own would have got 3 stars from me. Short verses, sometimes with simple wisdom - on other times making more complex points. The second book is a lesser known text, which claims to have been handed down orally. I found this much less interesting or insightful. As it's actually the bulk of the physical book overall it gets 2 stars.

There are nice passages in here, and I can't say I learnt nothing, but generally I found it dull and repetitive. But then I might just be not on my way to enlightenment through the great universal way. Probably only for the seriously interested and not the occasional dabbler like me.

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## **Mark says**

Coming from a non-scholar, who knows little about the Chinese language, the Tao Teh Ching translation seemed good for me. The Hua Hu Ching was a bit harder for me to appreciate. It seemed repetitive. Also, after hearing the history of the Hua Hu Ching, for some reason I doubted the authenticity of the text. Of course, if a text were inauthentic, but still effective, I wouldn't mind, but I did not feel that Hua Hu Ching offered anything to me that the Tao Teh Ching didn't already have. I feel that if one is pursuing Daoism, start with Tao Teh Ching, and if you are still intrigued, check out the Book of Zhuangzi. I feel the Book of Zhuangzi is excellent.

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## **J.B. Riebel says**

I think of this book as a philosophical diary of an ancient Chinese scholar. Many of the statements are both simple and profound at the same time.

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## **Gabriella says**

Recommended reading for all on a spiritual journey! Such ancient and well rounded teachings of Taoism.

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## **Analú says**

One.

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### **Mohamed Badri says**

The Tao Teh Ching was superb , it was taken straight from the scriptures and translated brilliantly by the author, the Hua Hu Ching was a bit awful in my opinion , as the author wrote “it was from his own understanding and what was passed on by generation after generation ” probably due to no existing scriptures left.

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### **Steven Peterson says**

This appears to be a literate version of Lau Tzu's work. There is a brief introduction that puts his work into context; however, I would have preferred a bit more detail on his life and the context in which he lived and wrote.

A couple brief excerpts to give a sense of his thought:

"Tao, the path of subtle truth,  
cannot be conveyed with words.  
That which can be conveyed with words  
is merely a relative conception."

Or:

"The virtue of the universe is wholeness.  
It regards all things as equal.  
The virtue of the sage is wholeness.  
He too regards all things as equal."

A fascinating look into the thinking of Lao Tzu.

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### **Jessie Cooper says**

amazing. you can truly find yourself somewhere in this book. it definitely lightens the soul.

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