

Zhuangzi: Basic Writings (Translations from the Asian Classics)

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With a new Preface by Burton Watson . . .

The basic writings of Chuang Tzu have been savored by Chinese readers for more than two thousand years. And Burton Watson's lucid and beautiful translation has been loved by generations of readers.

Chuang Tzu (369?-286? B.C.) was a leading philosopher representing the Taoist strain in Chinese thought. Using parable and anecdote, allegory and paradox, he set forth, in the book that bears his name, the early ideas of what was to become the Taoist school. Central to these is the belief that only by understanding Tao (the Way of Nature) and dwelling in its unity can man achieve true happiness and freedom, in both life and death.

Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings includes the seven "inner chapters," which form the heart of the book; three of the "outer chapters," and one of the "miscellaneous chapters." Watson also provides an introduction, which places the philosopher in relation to Chinese history and thought.

Witty and imaginative, enriched by brilliant imagery, and making sportive use of both mythological and historical personages (including even Confucius), this timeless classic is sure to appeal to anyone interested in Chinese religion and culture.

"Burton Watson . . . possesses all the qualities which distinguish a master translator. As a craftsman and as a poet, he has inspired and challenged two generations."

Asian Affairs

BURTON WATSON is one of the world's best-known translators of Chinese and Japanese. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia, and lives in Japan. His most recent translations with Columbia University Press include *The Lotus Sutra* (1993) and *The Old Man Who Does as He Pines* (1994).

Translations from the Asian Classics

Printed in U.S.A.

Cover design: Tik Chuanming

Cover art: Man on a horse, Han Dynasty, painted on wall at a tomb, Liaoning, West China

Columbia University Press ■ New York

ISBN 0-231-10575-7



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