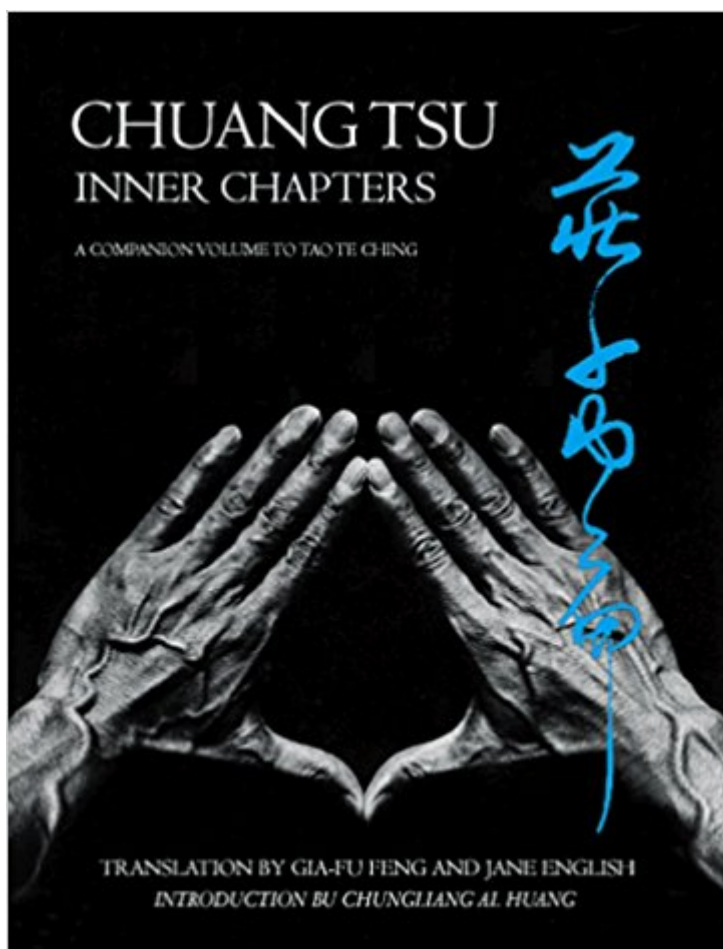


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Chuang Tsu: Inner Chapters



Synopsis

Chuang Tsu/ Inner Chapters is a companion volume to Gia-fu Feng and Jane English's translation of Tao Te Ching, which has enjoyed great success since its publication in 1972, and had a 25th anniversary edition published in 1997. Very little is known about Chuang Tsu and that little is inextricably woven into legend. It is said that he was a contemporary of Mencius, an official in the Lacquer Garden of Meng in Honan Province around the fourth century B.C. Chuang Tsu was to Lao Tsu as Saint Paul was to Jesus and Plato to Socrates. While the other philosophers were busying themselves with the practical matters of government and rules of conduct, Chuang Tsu transcended the whang cheng, the illusory dust of the world--thus anticipating Zen Buddhism's emphasis on a state of emptiness or ego transcendence. With humor, imagery and fantasy, he captures the depth of Chinese thinking. The seven "Inner Chapters" presented in this translation are accepted by scholars as being definitely the work of Chuang Tsu. Another twenty-six chapters are of questionable origin; they are interpretations of his teaching and may have been added by later commentators. This translation of Inner Chapters was originally published in 1974. This new edition, published by Earth Heart in 1997, includes many new photographs by Jane English and an introduction by Tai Ji master Chungliang Al Huang, who has been highly successful in bringing to the West the wisdom of the East.

Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Earth Heart (March 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0934747164

ISBN-13: 978-0934747165

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.6 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #772,853 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #116 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Divination > I Ching #395 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts > Taoism #527 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Taoism

Customer Reviews

"(The new photographs added to the 1997 edition of Chuang Tsu) are more skillfully crafted and

more sensual. Rippled sand suggests creased moist skin, Feng's face sleeps glistening among the ferns. Retreating waves caress each other. Twisted branches jut out into the sky. Shrubs grow from dunes like brushy hairs. The images are more dynamic, more engaging than (Jane English's) earlier illustrations." -- Express Books, September 1997 "This present volume is indeed a gift to all lovers of Chuang Tsu and anyone else who would like a taste of this wild, irascible and astonishing sage. The oversized pages, with their calligraphy and Jane English's haunting nature photography, draw us into the work in a relaxed and easy way so that before we know it, we are inside the world of Chuang Tsu." -- The Empty Vessel, Winter 1997 A gift to lovers of Chuang Tsu and anyone else liking a taste of this wild, irascible and astonishing sage. -- The Empty Vessel, Winter 1997

Text: English, Chinese (translation) Original Language: Chinese -- This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Ok, I just love Chaung Tsu. Why? Because he is so straight forward, so unexpected, and he just has fun! When you go to an ancient Taoist classic you expect to find some enlightened master sitting on a mountain. Check that at the door! Imagine this: A student climbs to the top of a mountain and finds two old enlightened masters sitting there. One of them is Chaung Tsu, and they invite him to sit. "I have come to learn from your wisdom, great master" says the student. Chaung Tsu begins: "Now I am going to tell you something. I don't know what heading it comes under, and whether or not it is relevant here, but it must be relevant at some point. It is not anything new, but I would like to say it." The student sits forward and gives Chaung Tsu his full attention. Unseen by the student, the other master catches the twinkle in Chaung Tsu's eyes and knowingly shakes his head. "There is a beginning", continues Chaung Tsu. "There is no beginning of that beginning. There is no beginning of that no beginning of beginning. There is something. There is nothing. There is something before the beginning of something and nothing, and something before that. Suddenly there is something and nothing! (But between something and nothing, I still don't really know which is something and which is nothing.) Now, I've just said something, but I don't really know whether I've said anything or not." The would-be student stares slack-jawed at Chaung Tsu. He makes as if to speak a question, and then snaps his mouth shut. After some time, he slowly gets to his feet, stammers "thank you", and then slowly departs down the mountain from whence he came. When he has gone, the other enlightened master turns to Chaung Tsu and scolds "why do you do that? He only wanted to learn." "He came expecting some deep truth with which to adorn his mind", replies Chaung Tsu, "and yet what he came seeking is already within him. The clutter in his mind only prevents him from

seeing it. As long as he believes his mind is the tool which will lead him to enlightenment, he will never achieve it. He will now go and turn my words over and over in his head until his rational mind is so weary it cries itself to sleep like a baby. Then with it out of the way, perhaps he will catch a glimpse of the truth which he seeks." "Besides", continues Chaung Tsu with a wink, "I just like messing with people."

Phenomenal book, full of knowledge for those with the patience and maturity to process the stories and scary the meanings. This book puts the lessons of the Dao De Ching in different ways, potentially making them easier to understand.

I've read this book many times since the '70's. It disappeared for a while and after loaning and giving away my books I n found myself without a copy until this new edition came along. The text is the same, but the cover and pics are different. The words whisper things that my inner self already knows, but needs to remember. One can meditate on the words, or the wonderful black and white photos. Each page includes the ancient Chinese script of the text.

This is such a beautiful book. I first bought this book back in the 80s...don't know what happened to it, but I saw this again and couldn't resist buy it again.

There is a fish, we have no idea how big the fish is. It is also a bird. We have no idea how big the bird is. Yeah... That about sums up Chuang Tsu. But the translation is great!

very good book, if you can understand it :D

Beautiful ! More than I expected. A treasure! The book and the service fantastic!

Profound, provocative, entertaining, surprising, comforting, inspirational, challenging.

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