

**TAO TE CHING: WORD FOR WORD:
TRANSLATION AND COMMENTARY BY
CARL ABBOTT**



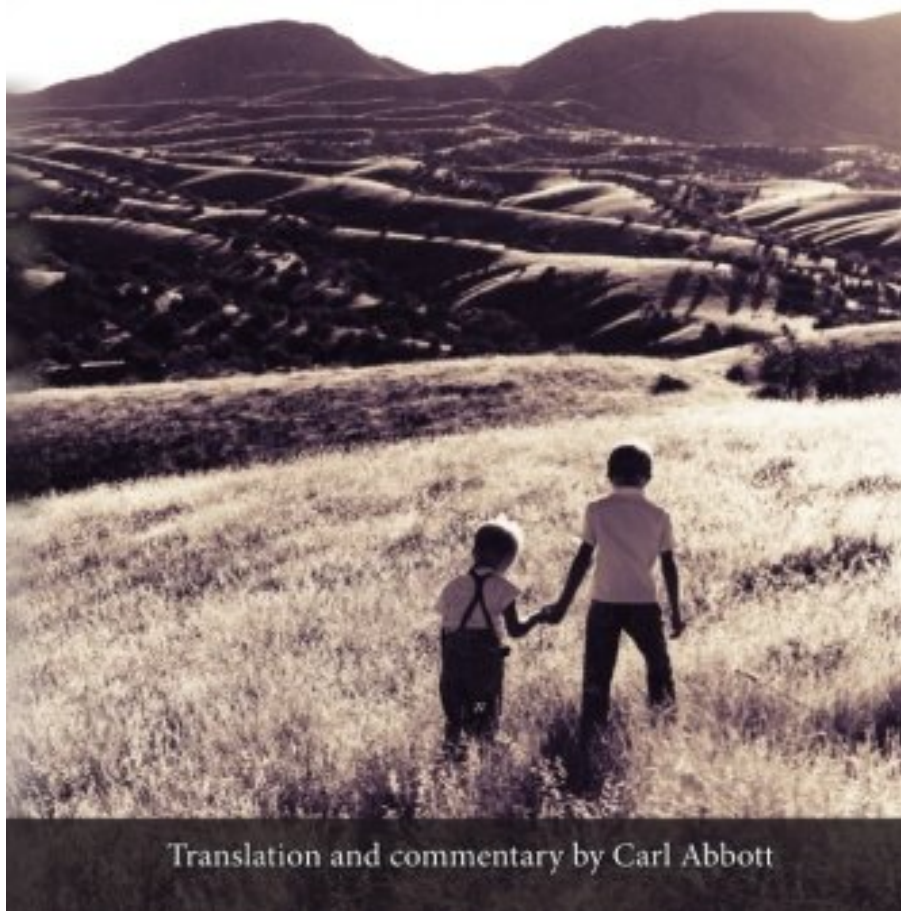
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Tao Te Ching

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TAO TE CHING: WORD FOR WORD: TRANSLATION AND COMMENTARY BY CARL ABBOTT PDF

I first give a poetic rendering of the chapter. This is followed by a word-for-word, line-by-line translation of the Chinese. Chinese characters can have many related synonym-like meaning. I give the main ones so that a reader can piece together something closer to the original. Normal translations, even my nearly literal poetic one, invariably lose some degree of the ancient 'original intention' due to the modern cultural context we bring to our language's words... our 'education'. In the second half of the book, I give extensive commentary that relates each chapter to various aspects of life. This more literal approach also produces some results not possible through approaches commonly used to translate this ancient text (e.g., an over concern for poetic beauty which sacrifices meaning (mostly through embellishment), and over influence of humanist views which skews meaning away from the ancient). Using this translation, along with one's favorite English translation and cross checking frequently with my Word for Word should presumably deepen one's understanding.

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- 240 pages

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Very useful for the right reason...

By M. Montgomery

This word for word translation was clearly a labor of love. Thank you, Mr. Abbott. First let me say what this ebook is and what it isn't. And who would benefit from it and who would not.

The book contains a translation, followed by a line by line word list in English, followed by the Chinese in simplified characters (I think?) and Pinyin romanization. The formatting is nicely rendered on a Fire HDX.

The translation ought not be used alone. As the author states, it is the product of his studying the text over years, not the work of a scholar. The word list, keyed to the lines, is (for me) merely adequate. It glosses the vocabulary and grammar and orients you to this and other translations. The Chinese is the primary value of the book.

I am reading The Philosophy of the Daodejing by Hans-Georg Moeller, Columbia University Press. As he analyzes a passage I look it up in this book and highlight it. Then I use the Chinese characters to check the parallelism, which is often missing in many English translations. Finally I use the Pinyin to get some sense of the rhyming structure and look up some key words in the Pleco Chinese dictionary. Both the Moeller and

the Pleco are highly recommended.

There is no perfect translation, especially of a work like this. Knowing the Pinyin and recognizing the major characters and structures helps you compare translations. And comparing many translations helps you delve more deeply into ancient Chinese thought. Which is illuminating, interesting, and fun.

This book helps greatly in that enterprise. Thanks again.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Worth having

By Amazon Customer

Useful. Provides information about web sites that provide supporting or alternate interpretations of each Chinese word symbol and other translators who provide alternate interpretations. Abbott's interpretations often provide food for thought.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Five Stars

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