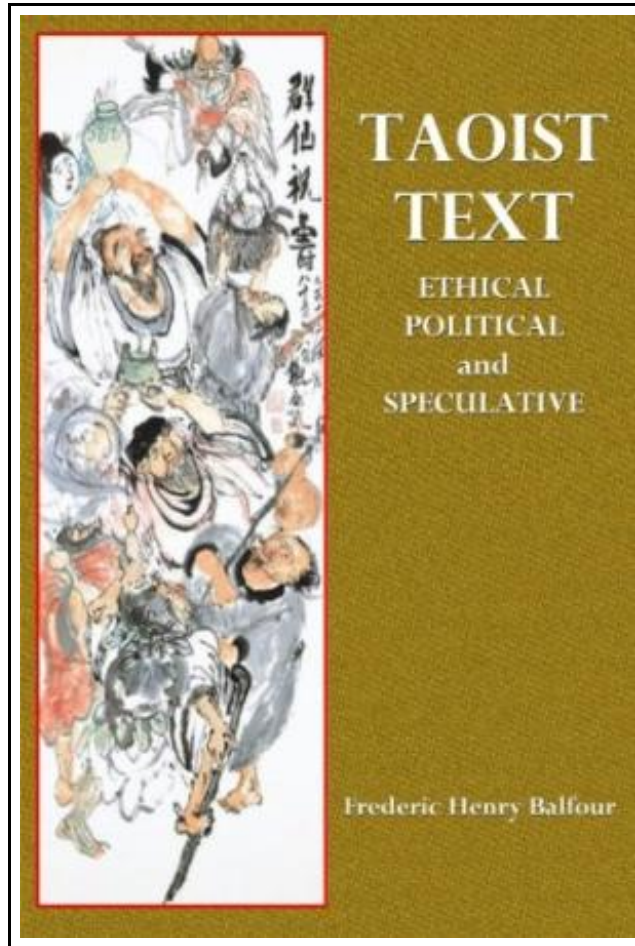


Taoist Texts Ethical Political and Speculative



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Reviews

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(Edwardo Rohan III)

TAOIST TEXTS ETHICAL POLITICAL AND SPECULATIVE



CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 130 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.3in. The Authors PREFATORY NOTE: IT is only after some years of hesitation that I have undertaken a new version of the Tao Te Ching. The task has already been performed by Julien, Chalmers, Strauss, Plnckner, and Legge, most of whom, at any rate, are scholars of the first water. Bat it occurs to me and with all deference I make the avowal that one prime defect lies at the root of every translation that has been published hitherto; and this is, that not one seems to have been based solely and entirely on commentaries furnished by members of the Taoist school. The Confucian element enters largely into all; and here, I think, an injustice has been done to Lao Tsze. To a Confucianist, the Taoist system is in every sense of the word a heresy, and a commentator holding this opinion is surely not the best expositor. It is as a grammarian rather than as a philosopher that a member of the Ju-chia deals with the Tao Te Ching; he gives the sense of a passage according to the syntactical construction rather than according to the genius of the philosophy itself; and in attempting to explain the text by his own canons instead of by the canons of Taoism, he mistakes the superficial and apparently obvious meaning for the hidden and esoteric interpretation. One of the greatest reproaches leveled at the Taoist system by Confucian scholars is the alleged scorn of ethical morality attributed to Lao Tsze and his followers. They have been represented as ascribing all the troubles and vices of China to the example of Yao and Shun, and to the doctrines respecting benevolence, rectitude, ceremonies,...



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