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Hsün Tzu: Hsun Tzu: Basic Writings



Synopsis

Hsün Tzu set forth the most complete well-ordered philosophical system of his day. Although basically Confucian, he differed with Mencius, his famous predecessor in the Confucian school, by asserting that the original nature of man is evil. To counteract this evil, he advocated self-improvement, the pursuit of learning, the avoidance of obsession, and constant attention to ritual in all areas of life. With a translation by the noted scholar Burton Watson, includes an introduction to the philosopher in relation to Chinese history and thought. Readers familiar with Hsün Tzu's work will find that Watson's lucid translation breathes new life into this classic. For those not yet acquainted with Hsün Tzu, will reach a new generation who will find his ideas on government, language, and order and safety in society surprisingly close to the concerns of our own age.

Book Information

Paperback: 177 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press; Revised edition (April 15, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231106890

ISBN-13: 978-0231106894

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

While Hsun Tzu's writings are interesting in themselves, I found that a comparison of his work to both Confucius and Mencius provides much insight into the ways of human life. Particularly interesting is Hsun Tzu's take a human nature versus that of Confucius and Mencius. All in all this is an interesting read for anyone interested in philosophy, ancient Chinese culture or human interaction and life in general.

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