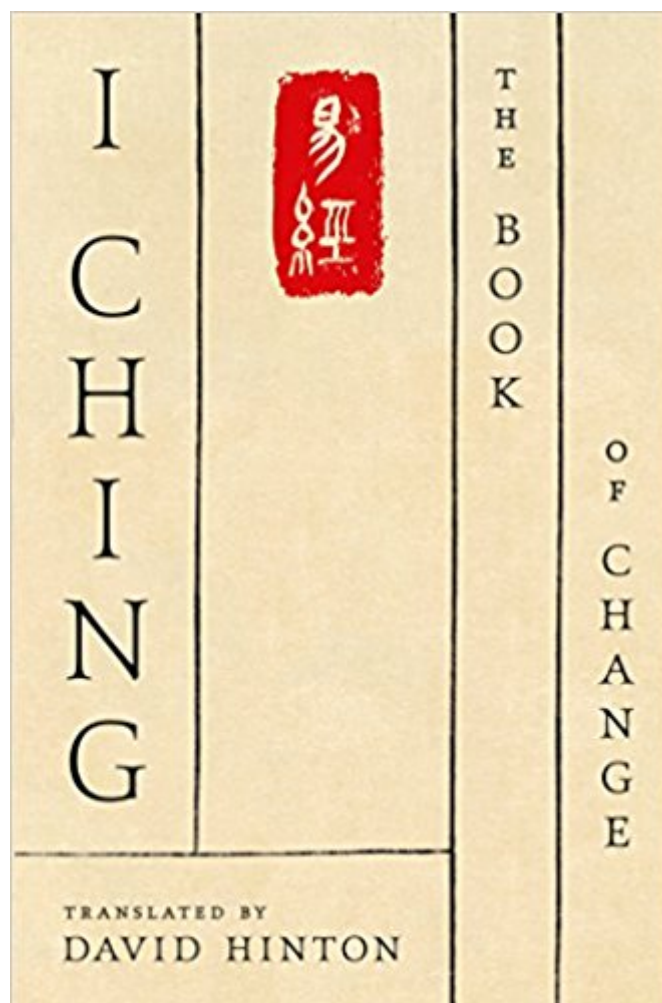


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I Ching: The Book Of Change: A New Translation



Synopsis

A master translator's beautiful and accessible rendering of the seminal Chinese text. In a radically new translation and interpretation of the I Ching, David Hinton strips this ancient Chinese masterwork of the usual apparatus and discovers a deeply poetic and philosophical text. Teasing out an elegant vision of the cosmos as ever-changing yet harmonious, Hinton reveals the seed from which Chinese philosophy, poetry, and painting grew. Although it was and is widely used for divination, the I Ching is also a book of poetic philosophy, deeply valued by artists and intellectuals, and Hinton's translation restores it to its original lyrical form. Previous translations have rendered the I Ching as a divination text full of arcane language and extensive commentary. Though informative, these versions rarely hint at the work's philosophical heart, let alone its literary beauty. Here, Hinton translates only the original strata of the text, revealing a fully formed work of literature in its own right. The result is full of wild imagery, fables, aphorisms, and stories. Acclaimed for the eloquence of his many translations of ancient Chinese poetry and philosophy, Hinton has reinvented the I Ching as an exciting contemporary text at once primal and postmodern.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[The I Ching is] the only thing that is amazingly true, period . . . You don't have to believe anything to read it, because besides being a great book to believe in, it's also very fantastic poetry." —Bob Dylan
"The I Ching has never left my side."
—John Cage

David Hinton's many translations of classical Chinese poetry have earned wide acclaim for creating compelling contemporary poems that convey the actual texture and density of the originals. He is also the first translator in more than a century of the four seminal masterworks of Chinese philosophy: Tao Te Ching, Chuang Tzu, Analects, and Mencius. He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and has won the Landon Translation Award, the PEN Translation Award, and, most recently, the Thornton Wilder Award for lifetime achievement from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

I love this translation because it is simple, easy to read, and gives more of the feeling of the I Ching, which I believe is more important than a strict translation/interpretation.

This is one of the worst translations of the I Ching to come along in a long time. There is a point where poetic license crosses over into outright poaching, and this book goes there. Consider a typical passage compared with a few standard translations of the work: Hexagram 21, Judgment
Hinton: "Bring people together through the biting foresight of shaman-flower sticks, and you'll penetrate everywhere. Exact the proper punishments and you'll bring forth wild bounty."
Legge (19th century, literal, Neo-Confucian school): Shih Ho indicates successful progress (in the condition of things which it supposes). It will be advantageous to use legal constraints.
Wilhelm: (20th century, semi-literal, Neo-Confucian school:) Biting through has success. It is favorable to let justice to be administered.
Rutt: (20th century, new school/scholarly): Sacrifice. Favorable in disputes.
I really think the phrase "the biting foresight of shaman-flower sticks" deserves a bad review all on its own. The author, and he really can be called that since his composition is not a translation, has done competent translations from the Chinese before, including the Confucian Four Books which came out not long ago. Other than using the antiquated Wade-Giles transliteration for Chinese words instead of the standard Pinyin I didn't really find that volume to be embellished with "wild bounty" as this one. On the positive side, the volume is very reasonably priced and I have added it to the 'New Age paraphrases and lunatic fringe' section of my collection.

Mind boggling. Truly making me see life differently

The I Ching is a beautifully written book it is such fun and inspiring .The many surprise words and

the way they quickly flow from page to page makes for a very respectful understanding of the age old book and the masters that wrote it .I reckon the I Ching to everyone . If you decide to read it I honestly believe that you will be surprised I very much you will enjoy it's contents .For those that have read it you know about what I am relating to you about the I Ching :The Book of Change .

infinite mystery infinite awe

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