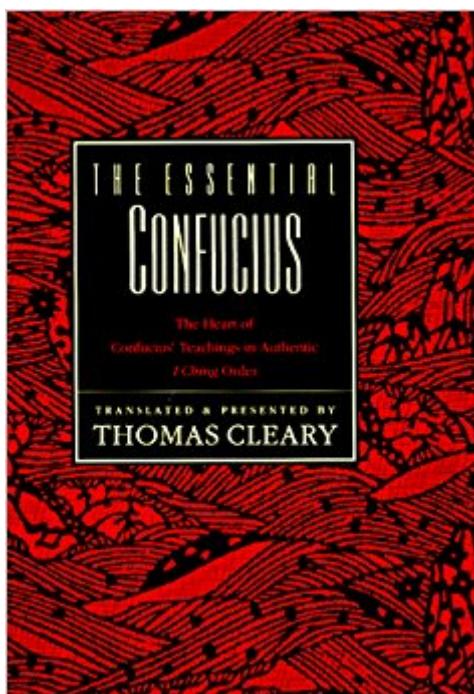


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The Essential Confucius: The Heart Of Confucius' Teachings In Authentic I Ching Order



Synopsis

Confucius is one of the great figures in the history of human thought, a pioneering educator, social critic, and political scientist. As a philosopher and teacher, he addressed core human issues with such precision and clarity that his sayings have been preserved and studied over thousands of years. The Analects of Confucius are a basic source for a wide range of advice on human affairs from governing nations and managing enterprises to dealing with society and getting along with others. This new presentation of the ever-popular sayings of Confucius is designed to bring the wisdom of a great teacher to another generation of readers. In his brilliant text, Thomas Cleary has arranged the sayings of Confucius in the order of the sixty-four classic I Ching hexagrams, which Confucius not only made available in their present form but also supplemented with his own written commentaries. Widely recognized for his linguistic and technical mastery in the translation of ancient Chinese texts, Thomas Cleary now makes the great Confucian ideas on morality, behavior, business, diplomacy, and spirituality easily accessible to the western reader.

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Customer Reviews

This is an amazing book. It's terse and every sentence is a jewel. Reading this, one sees why Confucius is regarded a sage. He understands human nature so well. Why don't we teach Confucianism in school? Our leaders would benefit greatly from reading this book. Here's a nice quote from the man, "When you see wise people, think of becoming equal to them. When you see unwise people, reflect inwardly on yourself."

I found 'Essential Confucius' to be insightful, but grossly incomplete. I was surprised to see how little content was amassed by Cleary. The Analects are a rich source of insight, and this book simply does not do it justice. Some of the passages chosen I would not have put forth either, considering the nature of the book's purpose. A lot of space is wasted, which could have contained many more of Confucius' truths. On the other hand, I do think that this is an excellent place to begin your Confucian search. If you just need a little prod or poke of his truths, then this is a nice, concise handbook. Nothing, however, can be substituted for the full Analects.

Few ancient philosophical teachings are powerful enough to escape obsolescence and retain the power that they had when they were first taught. Confucianism's didactic philosophy is one of these true classics. The timeless quality of its teachings is made accessible for the English reader in the book *The Essential Confucius* arranged and translated by Thomas Cleary. Cleary has arranged by topic, Confucian aphorisms from the *Book of Change* and Confucius's *Analects* to enhance the reader's understanding of Confucius's philosophy as a whole. Through Cleary's lucid translations and his skillful weaving of the two different texts of Confucianism the reader is able to heuristically grasp that the purpose and means by which Confucius wished to ameliorate society. The book consists of sayings from the *Book of Change* that are complimented by the dialogues from Confucius's from the *Analects*. Although these two works are from different authors, Confucius's *Analects* was heavily influenced by *The Book of Change* and these two works meld together in Cleary's fluid arrangement. Thomas Cleary assists the reader in the understanding of the main elements of Confucianism by providing notes in the back of the book and a short writing explaining the historical context of the two works in the introduction.

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