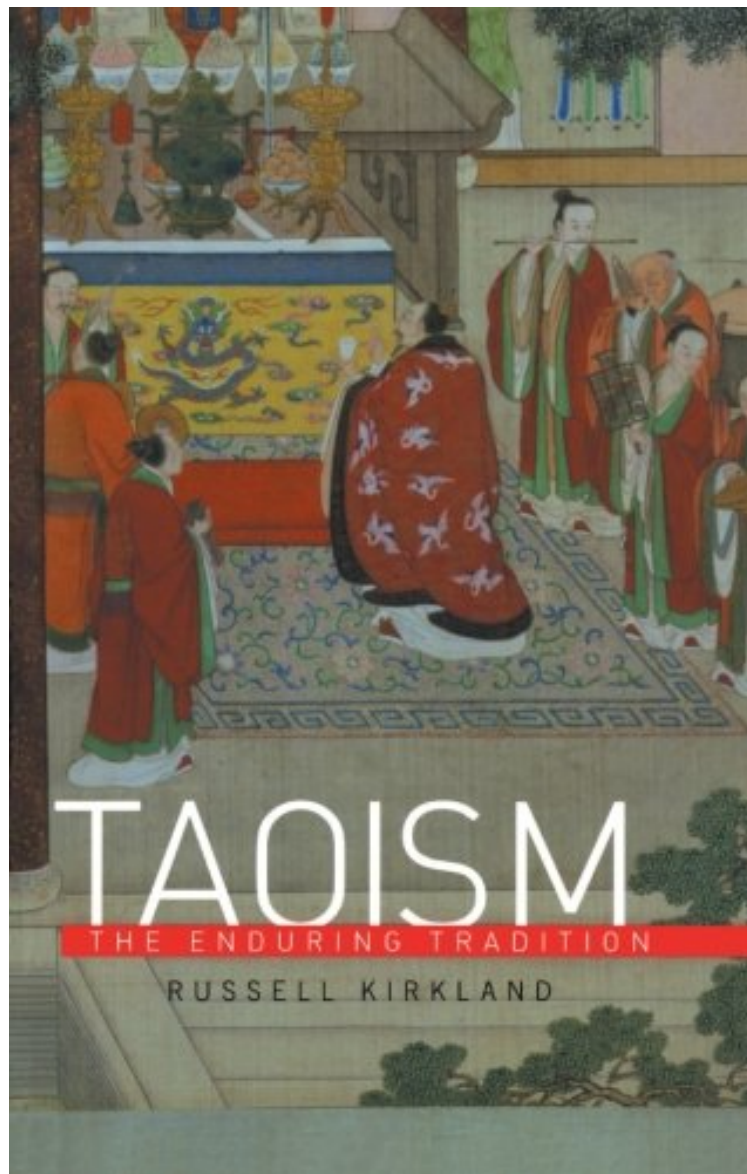


(Download) Taoism: The Enduring Tradition

Taoism: The Enduring Tradition

Russell Kirkland

*ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#2069946 in Books R Kirkland 2004-06-17 2004-04-22Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .71 x 5.431, .84 #File Name: 0415263220312 pagesTaoism The Enduring Tradition | File size: 41.Mb

Russell Kirkland : Taoism: The Enduring Tradition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Taoism: The Enduring Tradition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Clear Vision of Taoism and Taoist StudiesBy An File DubhI'm not sure why some people seem to have a hard time with this. Yes, the author has an argument, but he does not write in overly difficult or even overly scholarly language. Yes, he may challenge some of your assumptions about Taoism,

if you are out of the loop of contemporary Taoist studies. (And, since this book came out in 2004, you would have to be way, way out of the loop!) If you've read anything beyond, say, the 1980s or anything beyond the more "new-agey" conceptions of Taoism, nothing in here should be that much of a surprise at this point -- in fact more recent Taoist scholarship has begun to pick up on the currents that Kirkland put forward here (part of his argument being that Taoism is so much richer than many people up to 2004 realized, and that we need to begin to understand the totality of Taoist texts and practices). That said, this is still an important work even today, and Kirkland's analyses of Taoist texts known and some still lesser known are insightful and original. It is a good introduction to what is still roughly the state of the field now, and will very effectively shock the reader out of the illusions of myopic earlier prejudices and misinformation. And, if you are looking for ideas on Taoist practice, ch. 5 ("The Cultivated Life") is a useful, concise summation of the Taoist approach to meditation and what Kirkland terms "bio-spiritual" practices. Very worth reading.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Taoism: One of its best information sources in the Western World. By Chitwah So far, in my opinion, this is absolutely the best available book on Taoism there is. It has a very helpful bibliography. It is thorough, and for the Westerner who is seriously interested in the fantastic uniqueness of Tao, and its history and beliefs, this is probably THE SOURCE to build upon. Kirkland helped me to confirm what I believed, for example, of where Carlos Castaeda probably actually got the strong, "original" ethics and belief systems he actually presented to us (thank you, even though you were a fraud and a bit of a nut case, Carlos) in the first four books he wrote. I believe Taoism as practiced by many is a wonderful religion and a wonderful philosophy of life, and its meditation system is as good as any. Kirkland also confirms the personal nature of the experience, and the duty to personal self-control and total self-responsibility in this Magnificent, Magic, Sacred Earth, Sky, and Time.

16 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Criticism of Taoist Scholarship By sherpa01 I bought this book because it had great reviews and it's hard to find good material on the practices and texts of Taoism beyond the level of Tao of Pooh and Taoism for Dummies. But upon reading this torture of a text I found the other reviewers must have had different interests than mine, for what I've found in the book is a state-of-the-union address on Taoist scholarship (mainly how 19th and 20th century translators have not taken into consideration this or that text or aspect of Chinese history) but as to a rigorous explanation of the different practices and beliefs of Taoists there is not much to go on in this book. The author seems more interested in showing off his scholarship of Chinese thought and presenting what Taoism IS NOT than of telling us what those texts he so profusely cites say about what Taoism IS.

This clear and reliable introduction to Taoism (also known as Daoism) brings a fresh dimension to a tradition that has found a natural place in Western society. Examining Taoist sacred texts together with current scholarship, it surveys Taoism's ancient roots, contemporary heritage and role in daily life. From Taoism's spiritual philosophy to its practical perspectives on life and death, self-cultivation, morality, society, leadership and gender, Russell Kirkland's essential guide reveals the real contexts behind concepts such as Feng Shui and Tai Chi.

'Those of us who have been waiting for a thoroughly undated introduction to Daoism need wait no longer. Russell Kirkland, among America's best known scholars of Daoism, has offered us one in *Taoism: The Enduring Tradition*. ... [T]his work is a genuinely new introduction to Daoism that helps clear away much of the dense underbrush of Daoist history and textual relations, and also utilizes the most recent findings and conclusions of scholars of Daoism to set the reader on a more solid path to understanding China's most misunderstood and underappreciated transformational tradition.' Ronnie Littlejohn, *Philosophy East West*

About the Author Russell Kirkland is Associate Professor of Religion and Asian Studies at the University of Georgia. He is a member of the executive board of the Society for the Study of Chinese Religions, and of the board of directors of the U.S. Taoist Association. He has been writing on Taoism for over twenty years.