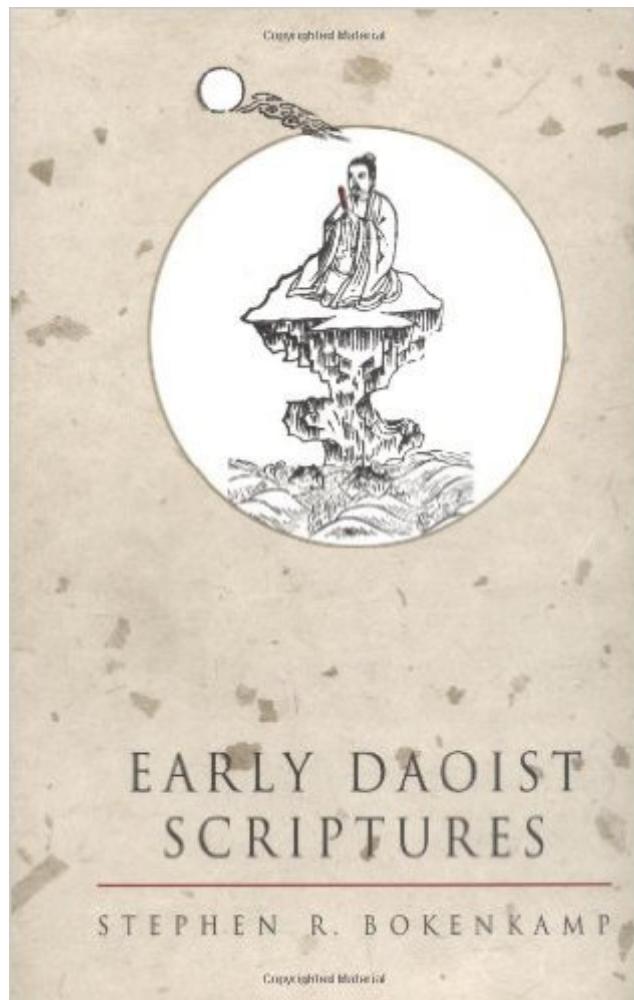


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Early Daoist Scriptures (Daoist Classics , No 1)



Synopsis

For centuries Daoism (Taoism) has played a central role in the development of Chinese thought and civilization, yet to this day only a few of its sacred texts have been translated into English. Now Stephen R. Bokenkamp introduces the reader to ancient scriptures never before published in the West, providing a systematic and easily accessible introduction to early Daoism (c. 2nd-6th C.E.). Representative works from each of the principal Daoist traditions comprise the basic structure of the book, with each chapter accompanied by an introduction that places the material within a historical and cultural context. Included are translations of the earliest Daoist commentary to Laozi's *Daode jing* (Tao Te Ching); historical documents relating the history of the early Daoist church; a petitioning ritual used to free believers from complaints brought against them by the dead; and two complete scriptures, one on individual meditation practice and another designed to rescue humanity from the terrors of hell through recitation of its powerful charms. In addition, Bokenkamp elucidates the connections Daoism holds with other schools of thought, particularly Confucianism and Buddhism. This book provides a much-needed introduction to Daoism for students of religion and is a welcome addition for scholars wishing to explore Daoist sacred literature. It serves as an overview to every aspect of early Daoist tradition and all the seminal practices which have helped shape the religion as it exists today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have sat through 2 lectures of Prof. Bokenkamp and found that his knowledge of Eastern thought has followed through in this book. Though not for a person looking for an introduction into Taoist thought, this book is informative in the fact that it has content I have not found in other books. Also, the book is written more for a western audience, which isn't necessarily bad, but Prof. Bokenkamp has taken some liberties with the English language that may have been better kept in Chinese context. For those with a background in Taoism, I recommend this book. Others might want to try the Tao Te Ching first to gain insight into what Taoism is about.

This is a collection of Taoist canon books from the early Mao shan, Showing the Spiritualistic roots of the Taoist religion before it was sanitized by those who could not trance or perform as the founders did. It is easy to say and think that everyone is the same but some have improved themselves so much we say they are myths. History is a joy when you can see the ideas of the best minds that lived and the poetry of their lives expressed in these texts. I enjoyed the Purple texts especially as a map to the higher mind. To those of you who study the Source enjoy, I did.

These scriptures were translated for scholars that study and teach Daoist history. I would say this isn't a book for the layman, or those regular consumers that want East Asian theory philosophy stuff.... Stephen Bokenkamp, Livia Kohn, Stephen Little are all university grade texts.

This is a very good book and has A LOT of material for a deep study of Daoism as a religion. Will be very useful for those who take this beautiful and ancient Path seriously.

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