

Penguin Classics



95c

LAO TZU
TAO TE CHING



LAO TZU
TAO TE CHING

TRANSLATED
WITH AN
INTRODUCTION
BY
D. C. LAU

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The *Lao tzu*, as it is usually called, is the principal classic in the thought of Taoism. Traditionally ascribed to one Lao Tzu, an older contemporary of Confucius, the work is more probably an anthology of wise sayings compiled in about the fourth century B.C. As a treatise both on personal conduct and on government it is moral rather than mystical in tone, and advances a philosophy of meekness as the surest path to survival. In the clear English of D. C. Lau's new translation this famous Chinese book can be enjoyed especially for its pure poetry.

The cover illustration shows a detail from a Chinese silk painting in the British Museum