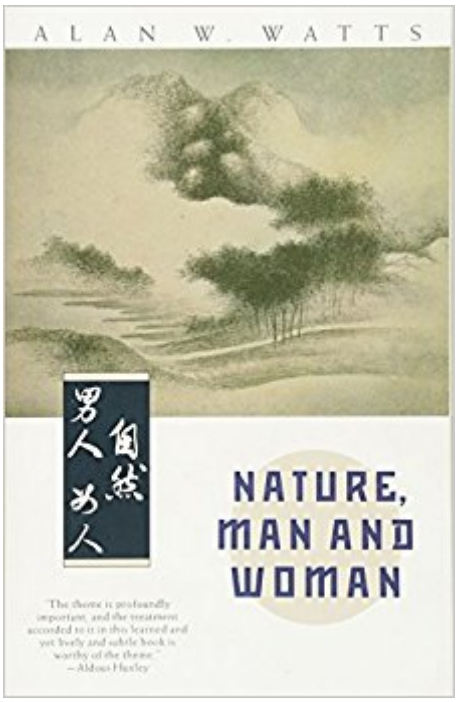
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Nature, Man And Woman



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Synopsis

In Nature, Man and Woman, philosopher Alan Watts reexamines humanityÃ¢â ¬â„¢s place in the natural worldÃ¢â ¬â •and the relation between body and spiritÃ¢â ¬â •in the light of Chinese Taoism.Ã Â Western thought and culture have coalesced around a series of constructed ideasÃ¢â ¬â •that human beings stand separate from a nature that must be controlled; that the mind is somehow superior to the body; that all sexuality entails a seductionÃ¢â ¬â •that Ã Â in some way underlie our exploitation of the earth, our distrust of emotion, and our loneliness and reluctance to love. Here, Watts fundamentally challenges these assumptions, drawing on the precepts of Taoism to present an alternative vision of man and the universeÃ¢â ¬â •one in which the distinctions between self and other, spirit and matter give way to a more holistic way of seeing.

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Customer Reviews

A provocative and enduring work that reexamines humanity’s place in the natural world -- and the spirit’s relation to the flesh -- in the light of Chinese Taoism. That human beings stand separate from a nature that must be controlled, that the mind is somehow superior to the body, and that all sexuality entails a seduction -- a danger and a problem-are all assumptions upon which much of Western thought and culture is based. And all of them in some way underlie our exploitation of the earth, our distrust of emotion, and our loneliness and reluctance to love. Few books have challenged those assumptions as directly as this erudite and engaging work by the author of The Way of Zen. Drawing on the precepts of Taoism, Alan Watts offers an alternative vision of man and

the universe -- one in which the distinctions between self and other, spirit and matter give way to a more holistic way of seeing. Nature, Man and Woman is a book of great elegance and far-reaching implication -- one of those rare texts that can change the way we think, feel, and love.

That human beings stand separate from a nature that must be controlled, that the mind is somehow superior to the body, and that all sexuality entails a seduction - a danger and a problem - are all assumptions upon which much of Western thought and culture is based. And all of them in some way underlie our exploitation of the earth, our distrust of emotions, and our loneliness and reluctance to love.

Alan Watts is one of the most profound thinkers of the 20th century, in my opinion. I've read many of his books over the years & with the advent of the Internet & specifically YouTube listened to the many recorded lectures & talks he gave over the years. This is one of his best books I think. He makes esoteric topics like mysticism & eastern religions somewhat understandable for the western mind & this book is no exception. Highly recommended.

This is one of my most favorite books of all time. It is a treatise on how the genders can approach each other on some middle ground of sorts, by saying that couples can discover "what it can mean just to touch hands or the intimacy of a kiss...without having to make something of it." Brilliant!

I read Nature "Man and Woman" in paper back, when just out of high school. It introduced me to Eastern philosophy and to Alan Watts. Later, when when the US army say fit to post me to South Korea, I met and married my Wife Yong Cha. We've been very happily married for nearly fifty years. I thought it was time to add the hard cover edition to my library. Where else but partners would one look?

One does not complete this book. This book serves as a constant reference to not only spiritually, but just generally for life's ills and triumphs. Watts exemplifies his ability to engage the reader so directly in easy to understand language and conceptually simple examples, while still being broad enough to suggest his wisdom for the majority of one's spiritual, emotional and cognitive queries.

Watts' work is still amazingly relevant. His exposition of timeless philosophical themes is deep and accessible at the same time. His articulation of the limits of narrow logical consciousness is still the

best antidote to the sickness of the current hyper-capitalist disrespect for nature that I have read. He flows easily from discussion of narrow consciousness to a discussion of more natural and intuitive forms of consciousness to the application of that intuition in interpersonal relations. Still amazing!

I absolutely love Alan Watts and his writing is phenomenal. He describes this book specifically as his favorite piece in terms of written and philosophical structure.

I bought this as a gift and he loved it!

I decided to transition into a better person decades ago. That everything that I know and believe was founded on my social experiences to date. To improve on that, I would need to consider other concepts and ideas from those that gained their experience from such. I do not consider myself an expert in any one topic. Although, I am told, "expert," is just another word for "experienced." Grain of salt! Alan Watts took a different path in life and I am grateful to his memory of such a path.

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