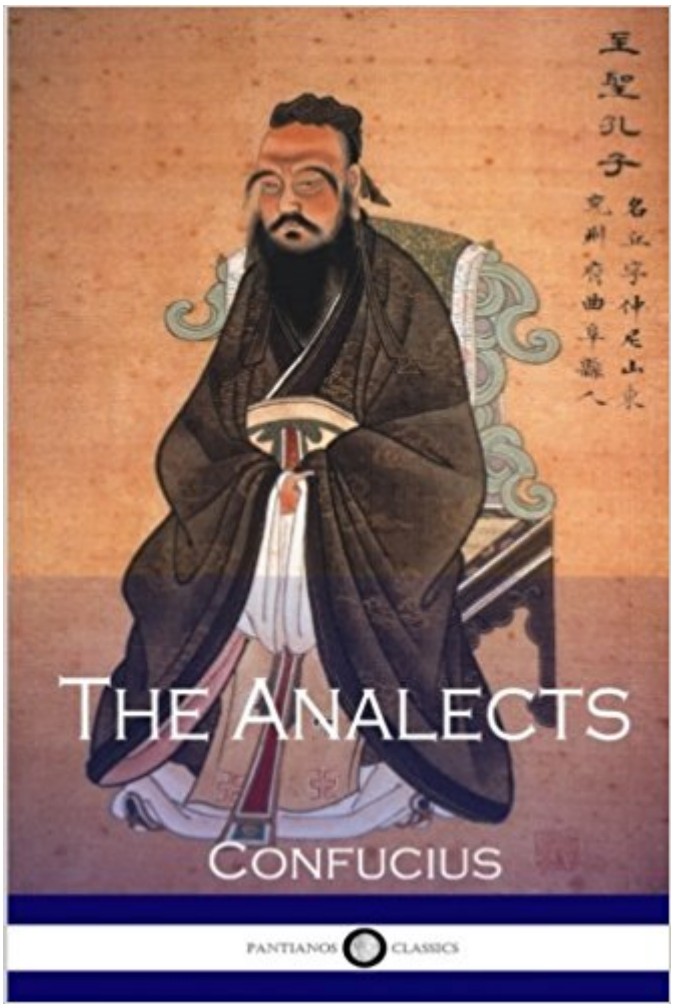
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The Analects Of Confucius



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Synopsis

The classic book of quotations and discussions by Chinese philosopher Confucius is presented here anew in a superbly formatted English edition. Originally, these sayings and conversations were penned during the Warring States period of Chinese antiquity. The subjects range from wise behaviour in times of crisis to general instruction upon how to live a peaceful life characterised by serenity, humility and good work. The importance of family life and community cooperation are also alluded to, offering an insight into the mores and customs of ancient Chinese life. The politics of the time, rife with infighting between noble families and dukedoms, also attract consideration by Confucius and his contemporaries. To better illustrate his points, examples and analogies are readily offered by Confucius, who engages with several other philosophers through the course of the twenty named books that comprise the core text of the Analects. The translator of this book is James Legge, a Scottish Sinologist who spent much of his lifetime in China translating the philosophical and artistic classics. Devoting his talents to accurately rendering Confucian thought for Western consideration, Legge's translations of the Chinese Classics were originally published by Oxford University Press, and remain revered and appreciated to this day.

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Customer Reviews

Scottish scholar JAMES LEGGE (1815-1897) was the first professor of Chinese language and literature at Oxford University, serving from 1876 to 1897. Among his many books are The Life and Teaching of Confucius (1867), The Religions of China (1880), and the 50-volume Sacred Books of the East (1879-1891). --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

A lot of reviewers have complained about the formatting of this e-book. It may be a little odd, but not impossible to deal with:CHAP. III. The Master said, 'Fine words and an insinuating appearance are seldom associated with true virtue.' CHAP. IV. The philosopher Tsang said, 'I daily examine myself on three points:ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • whether, in transacting business for others, I may have been not faithful;ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • whether, in intercourse with friends, I may have been not sincere;ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • whether I may have not mastered and practised the instructions of my teacher.'The whole work, which is less than 200 pp. long, is divided in to 20 books, with, as you can see, very short chapters.Is the wisdom of Confucius all platitude? No, there are some really obscure remarks as well:CHAP. XIII. 1. Wang-sun Chia asked, saying, 'What is the meaning of the saying, "It is better to pay court to the furnace than to the south-west corner?"' 2. The Master said, 'Not so. He who offends against Heaven has none to whom he can pray.'CHAP. XI. Tsze-kung said, 'What I do not wish men to do to me, I also wish not to do to men.' The Master said, 'Ts'ze, you have not attained to that.'Perhaps the wisdom is flattened out in translation. Perhaps there are ironies only scholars can recognize. Unlike one reader, who couldn't put it down, I found its fragmentary quality made it easy to pick up and put down whenever I felt like it. Was I wiser, having finished it? Perhaps, or perhaps not.CHAP. XVIII. 1. The Duke of Sheh asked Tsze-lu about Confucius, and Tsze-lu did not answer him. 2. The Master said, 'Why did you not say to him,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • He is simply a man, who in his eager pursuit (of knowledge) forgets his food, who in the joy of its attainment forgets his sorrows, and who does not perceive that old age is coming on?' CHAP. XIX. The Master said, 'I am not one who was born in the possession of knowledge; I am one who is fond of antiquity, and earnest in seeking it there.' CHAP. XX. The subjects on which the Master did not talk, wereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • extraordinary things, feats of strength, disorder, and spiritual beings.

Translations of Confucius tends to be problematic for some and this e-book may present a problem to novices (like myself) since there is no introduction. But even in comparison to a copy that I own it seems to be a good translation. If you were to be picky, the only other complaint would be that it tends to be a little wordy. For example:My text:"To know what you know and know what you do not know - this then is wisdom"E-book version:"When you know a thing, to hold that you know it; and when you do not know a thing to, to allow that you do not know it;- this is knowledge".For the most part it's a good translation...and it's free!

I got a copy of this after discussing its ideas with a friend who has studied it in Chinese. I have taken a couple university level philosophy courses and I am fairly tolerant of complex writing styles. I tried

to read this translation a few times and it is a *very* hard read. I found myself spending more time trying to figure out what the translation meant rather than focusing on what was being said. So, if you are a native English speaker and want to study Confucius get a different translation.

An interesting read for what it says about Chinese culture and history, but this is not my favourite translation. The language felt somewhat awkward and the e-book formatting wasn't the best. Specifically, the spacing was a little weird; there were no spaces where it would have made sense to put space to help distinguish individual thoughts and there were spaces where it made no sense, like in the middle of sentences. This, combined with the language, made it a more difficult read than it had to be.

thank you!

This book seems to be a standard translation and is fine to read. The translator has not added much to the original text and it is not annotated. Perfect if you just want to read the Master for free.

Used as part of a research paper comparing and contrasting Confucius and Niccolo Machiavelli for Comp II. Not only did I enjoy the book, but aced the paper as well.

"Confcius Say...", but did he, really? Or was he misinterpreted? Are you confused about what he said and what he meant? This thin text raises the veil and exposes the truth of what Confucius really said. Your interpretation is aided by the commentaries inserted at key points. Don't be surprised if you find yourself doing double takes at his double entendres.

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