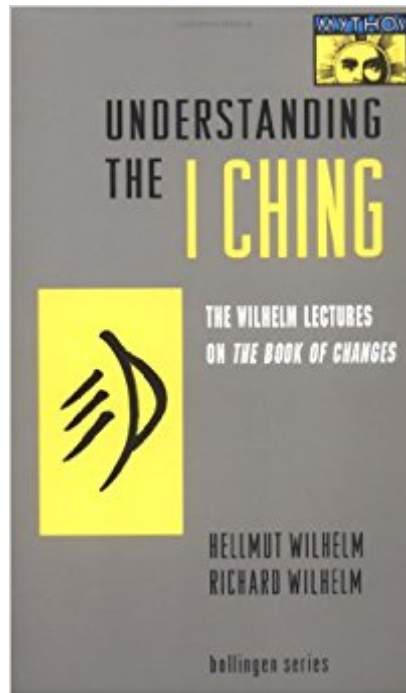




The book was found

Understanding The I Ching



Synopsis

The West's foremost translator of the I Ching, Richard Wilhelm thought deeply about how contemporary readers could benefit from this ancient work and its perennially valid insights into change and chance. For him and for his son, Hellmut Wilhelm, the Book of Changes represented not just a mysterious book of oracles or a notable source of the Taoist and Confucian philosophies. In their hands, it emerges, as it did for C. G. Jung, as a vital key to humanity's age-old collective unconscious. Here the observations of the Wilhelms are combined in a volume that will reward specialists and aficionados with its treatment of historical context--and that will serve also as an introduction to the I Ching and the meaning of its famous hexagrams.

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Customer Reviews

"This volume is a fascinating look at the I Ching and the researchers who study it."--Religious Studies Review

Text: English (translation) Original Language: German

This book is a marvelous collection of lectures by a father-and-son team who have no peers when it comes to I Ching scholarship. In my opinion, it is best read after a careful study of the companion Wilhelm/Baynes version of the I Ching itself. Taken as a whole, these lectures illustrate the broad

range of applications this book can have to daily life. The book stimulated my interest in the I Ching and I had trouble putting it down until I had finished it the first time. The first of the Richard Wilhelm lectures, "Opposition and Fellowship" cries for an update to show how the values of the I Ching might be used to address and resolve the issues facing the world at the present time. What did disappoint and sadden me were the number of negative reviews of this extraordinary book. What were these people smoking? Did they not read the complete title? The subtitle of the book, "The Wilhelm Lectures on the Book of Changes" makes it clear that it was never intended to be I Ching 101. Too difficult to understand? Given the complexity of the subject matter, it is hard to imagine a set of lectures that could be as simple and clear as these are. And here's another thing: Neither this book of lectures, nor the I Ching itself, were ever intended to be read just once. The effort to understand what both are saying is a lifetime pursuit, through which significant understanding will come only as a result of great effort made over a long period of time. In other words, if you don't understand something, just put it aside for a while and try again later. After all, the I Ching is a highly spiritual document that, by its very nature, will always contain elements of mystery that may or may not be revealed to each individual who encounters it.

While I have not finished it, I wanted more on how to interpret changing lines, and so far it is primarily on its history and genesis.

I wish that I had read this book 30 years ago. It's wonderful. Most of us will appreciate its help with Classic. It answered many of my questions regarding the origins and history of the I Ching.

I was hoping this book would help teach me how to read the I Ching and how to read the individual lines within each hexagram but was a little disappointed. I admit, this book did help in some regard, but there is nothing that the original Wilhelm/Baynes text has that this book explains any better. This book basically goes in detail about everything expressed in the original work - detail that doesn't seem to be needed, at least for me. Like it says on the back cover, this book is pretty much essays on the I Ching that help explain its origins, eastern philosophy, and some concepts pertaining to the hexagrams. Instead of buying this book, I recommend just reading the original Wilhelm/Baynes work and soaking up as much information as possible. Furthermore, it would help to get another I Ching just to get another interpretation and hence, another point-of-view. For a guide to which I Ching book you should get, consider these I Ching book reviewers:[...]

what a wealth of knowledge and information...a great buy!

Book is an ancient classic, in the writing of Helmut Wilhelm sounds even better. I highly recommend I Ching related books written by him, it surpasses by far Chinese authors.

This book is everything I thought it would be. I'm not yet finished reading but it is a good read so far.

I'm sure it's a great book and deserves five stars, but I've been familiar with the I Ching for over 30 years, and this book is sitting on my shelf mostly unread. Too tough for me.

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