

Note to the Reader

This book was written for educational purposes and is not sold for profit (its cost covers reproduction and binding only). It was originally created for the students of Polytechnic School in Pasadena, California, in 1992, but can be used by anyone interested in a rational framework from which the heart of the Eastern philosophies might be examined. Although the book is written from an advocate's perspective, its intention is not to convince anyone that a particular philosophic view is better than another. Its primary goal is to present ideas that will open the student up to a broader view of the East and the East's philosophic and metaphysical beliefs.

I should like to add that, being a physicist by training and not an English sort, I have come to depend upon the kindness and editorial skills of my friend, Cathy Dees, who helped in so many ways to bring this book into its present form.

(I should also like to note that in its first printing, this *opening note* had a grammatical error in it, which was mildly amusing because I was lauding Ms. Dee's editorial skills while presenting to the world a "thank you" that was flawed . . . in fact, the *Note to the Reader* was the ONLY thing she didn't proof read, which means Murphy's Law is alive and well not only in industry and physics and computer science, but also in the world of literature.)

I should also like to mention that the first year I presented this book to my students, it was in paperback form. Knowing myself as I do, I was well aware that there were in all probability gobs of grammatical errors in it, and I didn't want to enshrine an error-engorged manuscript with a hardback cover. My students were gracious enough to find most of the errors for me that first year, all of which I corrected, and because I was feeling more confident, the second year's book was hardbound. As I made up a new batch of books every year, each year's version was more error free than the previous year's book. Still, grammatical errors continued to pop up now and again, and I even found one factual error about Mara, the personification of temptation, earlier on.

The point is, if you stumble across a hard-cover version of this book, you will have no idea whether you are looking at an early edition that is festooned with grammatical errors or a later edition of the book that is more pristine.

The moral of the story? If you read this bit of amusement and are blown away by the majesty of it all (fat chance, but you never know), don't go to Amazon and buy a used, hardbound copy. You will have no idea which version you'll be getting, and you may be mightily disappointed in what you get.

Just sayin . . .