

Preface

This book was written in 1992, long before Google searches and during a time when “knowing stuff” was still “cool.” It was copyrighted somewhere around 1995. I wrote it for my Eastern philosophy students, at their request, only after I’d created a kind of story line for the activity that seemed to flow nicely.

As the book was simply me putting in writing what I talked about in class, in subsequent years I would use the book as a kind of outline for *what comes next* in the class. Not including this year (2018-19 school year), the last year I presented the activity was somewhere around 2004, 2005, 2006 (the reasons I stopped will be evident if you ever read my autobiography). I began as I had always done, looking at the book for a cue as to what would be the next most obvious topic. What stuck me as I read, though, was that although the framework and metaphysics I was presenting hadn’t changed, the era had. The year these current students owned, 2019, was not the year this book was written, over twenty years earlier.

That is what motivated me to go back and add to the book (and do a little subtracting—I read a chapter at the end of the book a few months back and realized that if you hadn’t first read my autobiography, which NOBODY had access to, you might conclude that I was a veritable loon), primarily in the form of footnotes.

So for your information, I will distinguish such footnotes from the original ones with the following notation: “Note from 2019:”.