

**WU WEI: A PHANTASY
BASED ON THE
PHILOSOPHY OF LAO-TSE.
FROM THE DUTCH**

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Wu Wei: A Phantasy Based on the Philosophy of Lao-Tse. From the Dutch by Henri Borel & Meredith Ianson

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HENRI BOREL & MEREDITH IANSON

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AUTHORISED VERSION BY MEREDITH IANSON.

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

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The following study on Lao-Tse's "Wu-Wei" should by no means be regarded as a translation or even as a free rendering of the actual work of that philosopher. I have simply endeavoured to retain in my work the essence of his wisdom in all its purity, and I have given a direct translation of his essential truths in isolated instances only, the rest being for the most part a self-thought-out elaboration of the few principles enunciated by him.

My conception of the terms "Tao" and "Wu-Wei" is entirely different from that of most sinologists (such as Stanislas Julien, Giles, and Legge), who have translated the work "Tao-Teh-King". But this is not the place to justify myself. It may best be judged from the following work whether my conception be wisdom or foolishness.

But little is contained in Lao-Tse's short, extremely simple book, the words of which may be said to be condensed into their purely primary significance — a significance at times quite at variance