



香港中文大學出版社  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong Press  
cup.cuhk.edu.hk | HONG KONG, CHINA



BILINGUAL EDITIONS OF THE CHINESE CLASSICS

## The Liezi (Bilingual Edition) with Zhang Zhan's Commentary

Translated and Annotated by Ian Johnston and Wang Ping

**A text that has been poorly understood and unfairly denigrated over the years**

The *Liezi* is a work attributed to the Daoist Lie Yukou, who, according to the traditional account, lived during the later part of the fifth and first part of the fourth centuries BCE. This places him between the first wave of philosophers of the pre-Han "Hundred Schools" (notably Lao Zi, Confucius, Mo Di, and Deng Xi) and the second wave, from mid-fourth to the end of the third centuries BCE. Thus, he may be said to have responded to the former and prefigured the latter.

The *Liezi* we have today is the recension by the Xuanxue (Dark Learning, third to fifth centuries CE) scholar Zhang Zhan and is accompanied by Zhang's commentary, which is a philosophical work in its own right and comparable to the commentaries of Wang Bi on the *Laozi* and Guo Xiang on the *Zhuangzi*. It is an engaging work, presenting profound philosophical ideas in a straightforward, down-to-earth, and sometimes humorous way, which makes it an admirable complement to the mystical and gnomic *Laozi* and the philosophically complex, esoteric *Zhuangzi*. The three works, identified by the Tang emperor Xuanzong as Divine Classics, form the foundation of what might be termed "philosophical Daoism".

**IAN JOHNSTON** has devoted himself to a life of relative seclusion in Southern Tasmania with his partner Susie Collis and their Pyrenean Mountain Dogs since retiring from his neurosurgical practice. He spends much of his time working on his translations from Classical Chinese and Ancient Greek into English.

**WANG PING** is an Associate Professor in the School of Humanities and Languages, the University of New South Wales, Australia, where she teaches classical Chinese literature and aesthetics.

February 2026 · 229 x 152 mm · 780 pages

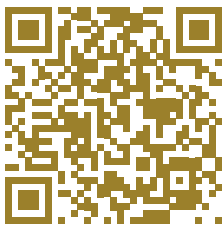
Hardcover

Philosophy / Chinese Classics

ISBN 978-988-237-335-8

**HK\$500 / US\$80**

ORDER & INFORMATION



The Chinese University of Hong Kong Press

Lady Ho Tung Hall

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Sha Tin, N.T.

Hong Kong SAR

Tel +852 3943 9800

Fax +852 2603 7355

Email [cup-bus@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:cup-bus@cuhk.edu.hk)

Website [cup.cuhk.edu.hk](http://cup.cuhk.edu.hk)



In addition to their definitive English translation and their critical Chinese text, Ian Johnston and Wang Ping have provided us with the broadest interpretative context imaginable.

— ROGER T. AMES