



Effortless Action: Wu-Wei as Conceptual Metaphor and Spiritual Ideal in Early China

By Professor of Asian Studies Canada Research Chair in Chinese Thought and Embodied Cognition
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Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This book presents a systematic account of the role of the personal spiritual ideal of wu-wei-literally no doing, but better rendered as effortless action -in early Chinese thought. Edward Slingerland s analysis shows that wu-wei represents the most general of a set of conceptual metaphors having to do with a state of effortless ease and unself-consciousness. This concept of effortlessness, he contends, serves as a common ideal for both Daoist and Confucian thinkers. He also argues that this concept contains within itself a conceptual tension that motivates the development of early Chinese thought: the so-called paradox of wu-wei, or the question of how one can consciously try not to try. Methodologically, this book represents a preliminary attempt to apply the contemporary theory of conceptual metaphor to the study of early Chinese thought. Although the focus is upon early China, both the subject matter and methodology have wider implications. The subject of wu-wei is relevant to anyone interested in later East Asian religious thought or in the so-called virtue-ethics tradition in the West. Moreover, the technique...



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