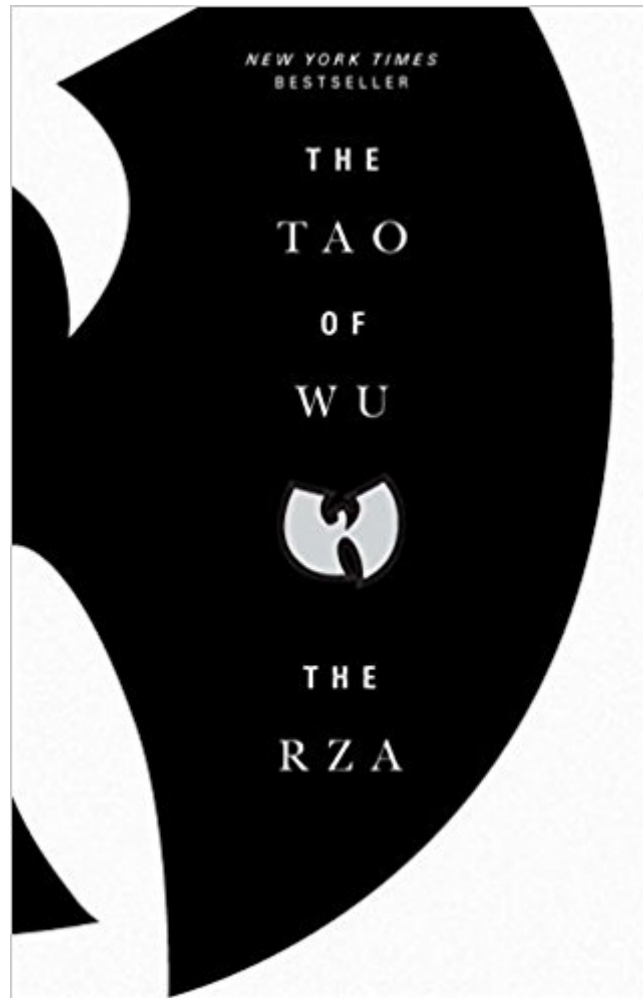




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The Tao Of Wu



Synopsis

The RZA, founder of the Wu-Tang Clan, imparts the lessons he's learned on his journey from the Staten Island projects to international superstardom. A devout student of knowledge in every form in which he's found it, he distills here the wisdom he's acquired into seven "pillars," each based on a formative event in his life—from the moment he first heard the call of hip-hop to the death of his cousin and Clan-mate, Russell Jones, aka ODB. Delivered in RZA's unmistakable style, at once surprising, profound, and provocative, *The Tao of Wu* is a spiritual memoir the world has never seen before, and will never see again. A nonfiction Siddhartha for the hip-hop generation from the author of *The Wu-Tang Manual*, it will enlighten, entertain, and inspire.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This hodgepodge of memoir, spiritual advice and poetry is a sincere attempt by the RZA, Wu Tang Clan founder and producer, to impart his accumulated life wisdom through the lens of hip-hop and idiosyncratic personal religion. To this end, the book opens with a series of paragraphs defining wisdom (Wisdom is woman, Woman is the word) and continues with the full Webster's Dictionary definition of wisdom. Repetition and generalization are problems, but serious fans of the Wu-Tang Clan, who surely are all of the potential readers for this book, will find some interesting stories of the RZA's early days through some diligent skimming. He writes about saving Method Man's life at the scene of a drug deal gone bad on Staten Island, the emotional connections shared in the projects over viewings of kung-fu movies and the marathon home production sessions during which he

created the backing tracks for years' worth of albums for his cohorts. The spiritual message of the book can be hard to parse: the RZA embraces 5 Percent Nation Muslim teachings as well as Zen Buddhism— the latter is the basis for a mind-numbing section of Hip-Hop Koans that includes Don't hate the player; hate the game. Chess tips and a case for vegetarianism also factor into this singular work. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"RZA is a towering artist and deep thinker who has much to teach us. I salute his courageous vision and compassionate witness-as manifest in this book and his life!" -Cornel West "I congratulate the world for this beautiful gift, wisdom from the life and travels of RZA, wisdom I truly believe draws from the deepest pools of human thought and spirit...When a wise monk passes away, the monastery builds a pagoda in his memory. Some pagodas get one floor, some get two or three. But if the man was known as the wisest and most enlightened of all monks, his pagoda gets seven. I believe the seven pillars of wisdom in this book are like the seven floors of an exalted monk's pagoda. They represent the wisdom, knowledge, and enlightenment of a soul that has never stopped training, never stopped learning." -Sifu Shi Yan Ming, thirty-fourth generation Shaolin Temple warrior monk --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

RZA gives us a little bit of the Wu history, much of his own personal history, and plenty of deep, religious, life lessons that reveal even more about who he is. I couldn't put the Tao down, as it is written well and gave me much to think about in my own life. The Tao of Wu is probably one of the best books that I have found to explain the logic of the Kingdom of Gods and Earths aka The 5% nation, and made my skepticism subside since I was once a cynic due to so many acts out of New York being about it. Who knew that RZA had so much going on? And who knew that he was so close to the members of the Wu prior to them dropping 36 Chambers and changing the Hip Hop landscape. So much of this was written from the heart that I felt like the man was next to me telling me the stories. I would highly recommend this book to fans of Wutang, or anyone interested in theology from an unbiased place. It is a book I intend to reread the next time that I find myself in a negative place.

If you would like to learn about one of the few Great Pioneers of Hip Hop and understand how one of the greatest groups have come to be then this book is for you. It gives great insight on the story of the founder of the Wu tang Clan, the RZA. It takes you into a different perspective on meditation,

how one can begin to find love for him/ herself and how to appreciate the world around them. I have read this book 4 times prior, allowed someone to borrow it, never got it back, then bought it again. I am on my 5th time reading it. the only reason for that is because I stopped reading for a good while. This book gives you great thirst for knowledge and is an amazing gate way to reading other amazing books. Geovanni AIG: Saturn9_Twitter: SVTERN9

Half way through and this book is amazing if you have some interest in Wu-Tang or anything remotely close.

Just read this. It is what it is. Yes, it's smart, but don't compare it to other bio books. No, it won't change your life. Sure, RZA is badass, and if you feel inclined to look into reading it, you will like it. If you are a huge fan, buy it. If not- get it from the library.

I have been an avid fan of the RZA and his compadres in the Wu Tang Clan for about fifteen years and he has never ceased to impress me both with his creativity and unique insight, an insight he has gained by living through hard years and a vision he has possessed since his early days. This book is a spoken version of his raps throughout his career. For those who are not huge rap fans and have a bit of a hard time with the intensity that comes across on Wu Tang albums this book serves as a comparable alternative. It reads in a way that makes you imagine you are sitting in a coffee shop with the RZA and asking him what makes up the essence of his being, as well as what inspired him and his peeps to create the awesome material that they have been putting on vinyl for almost two decades. He comes across as a very accessible, modest and friendly personality and has the ability to relate on a very basic human level. He successfully fuses African American with East Asian, whether in the realm of life, death, mystic concepts, or pop culture references. He is also distinctly American in the sense that he embodies one of our greatest qualities, that of molding various cultures together to form a new cultural hybrid. I sincerely hope I get the opportunity to chat with him one day and strongly recommend this book to people of all walks of life.

quick, in depth look into the philosophies behind rza's formation of the wu tang clan and also his way of life. entertaining, thought provoking, and enlightening. an excellent read for anyone who enjoys wu tang's music or hip hop in general.

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