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This is an excellent translation of the various known texts including some of the more recent archaeological finds. Ames preface also provides a valuable context for the writings - historical, cultural and philosophical. His insights into the Chinese culture, both past and present, prepares the reader well for the subsequent translations. The distinctions between western modes of thought, with their deep divisions between the physical and spiritual, are contrasted with the Chinese philosophy of continuous change within all extant things. For them there is no dichotomy - everything is defined by their roles and the ability to understand reality and truth as it is. Also, while I cannot read Chinese, it was cool to have the original writings provided for all the translations. Even if you've read the translations before, this book provides an excellent update to a literary/philosophical classic.

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