



# **Riding the Wind with Liezi: New Perspectives on the Daoist Classic (SUNY series in Chinese Philosophy and Culture)**

*Ronnie Littlejohn*

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*New attention and fresh perspectives on the classic, but neglected, text of Daoism, the Liezi.*

The *Liezi* is the forgotten classic of Daoism. Along with the *Laozi (Daodejing)* and the *Zhuangzi*, it's been considered a Daoist masterwork since the mid-eighth century, yet unlike those well-read works, the *Liezi* is little known and receives scant scholarly attention. Nevertheless, the *Liezi* is an important text that sheds valuable light on the early history of Daoism, particularly the formative period of sectarian Daoism. We do not know exactly what shape the original text took, but what remains is replete with fantastic characters, whimsical tales, paradoxical aphorisms, and philosophically sophisticated reflection on the nature of the world and humanity's place within it. Ultimately, the *Liezi* sees the world as one of change and indeterminacy.

Arguing for the *Liezi*'s historical, philosophical, and literary significance, the contributors to this volume offer a fresh look at this text, using contemporary approaches and providing novel insights. The volume is unique in its attention to both philosophical and religious perspectives.

“The *Liezi* is one of the lesser-known Daoist classics in the West even though English translations of the text are not lacking. Scholarly studies are scarce, and thus the publication of *Riding the Wind with Liezi* ... should be celebrated.” — *Philosophy East & West*

“*Riding the Wind with Liezi* is a timely and welcome collection of essays that explore crucial aspects of this long-neglected Daoist text.” — *Southeast Review of Asian Studies*

“This edited volume takes an important step towards filling a gaping hole in Western scholarship concerning this classic text of the Daoist tradition ... the world of Chinese studies benefits greatly from the presentation of this volume ... *Riding the Wind with Liezi* offers engaging and interesting analyses by specialists in philosophy, religion, and Chinese culture.” — *Journal of Chinese Religions*

Ronnie Littlejohn is Professor of Philosophy at Belmont University and the author of *Daoism: An Introduction*.

Jeffrey Dippmann is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Central Washington University.

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