

In reading this book I have not only gained a greater appreciation for TCM, but also a historical context in which to understand both the different theories and cultural influences that have contributed to the evolution of TCM as a culmination of philosophy, art, science and technique.

As practitioners many of us have clinical skills that we use in our everyday practice. This text explores the historical, linguistic and cultural influences that have all contributed to the development of TCM. Containing numerous illustrations, some charts, black and white photographs, as well as Chinese calligraphy assists in one's appreciation of TCM as both an art and a science.

Through an appreciation of Chinese language, folk beliefs, myths, customs, philosophical and religious influences, the TCM literary tradition and anecdotal historical references the reader can gain a deeper understanding of the influential as well as evolutionary influences that all contributed to TCM as we know it in the 21st century. The reader, and especially the practitioner, will gain not only valuable insight into the roots that have influenced the depth and breadth of the characteristic expressions of TCM but also the multi-faceted branches of TCM that have emerged through time and are influenced by a variety of sources.

Undiluted by cultural, linguistic or historical separation, the authors of this book more than adequately portray the "state of the art". Factual and anecdotal narration illustrated with diagrams, photos, as well as Chinese calligraphy further enhance one's appreciation for the deep and varied roots contributing to the development and evolution of TCM.

This book is well organized and indexed, making it both accessible for the reader with regards to specific areas or topics of interest. Included in this book is a glossary of terms we are all familiar with as practitioners, both the unique presentation serves to further our appreciation of words we know and use to a different level of understanding, meaning and appreciation.

As a practitioner of Oriental Medicine for several years as well as being fluent in the Chinese language, this book further deepened and reinforced by learning as well as appreciation of Oriental Medicine. This book is highly worthwhile as an "enjoyable" read and will surely help extend and broaden one's understanding and practice of a medicine that has been influenced by a variety of sources. A fun book!... so enjoy, it is not one to study but to savor!

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