

**CONFUCIAN MORAL SELF CULTIVATION, by Philip J. Ivanhoe.**

New York: Peter Lang, 1993. xii, 115 pages. No price.

This slim but important scholarly volume grew out of 1992 lectures at Rice University. To his lectures on Mencius, Hsün-tzu (Xunzi), and Wang Yang-ming, Ivanhoe has added new material on Confucius, Chu Hsi (Zhu Xi), and Tai Chen (Dai Zhen). His goal is to provide Western philosophers who know little of China, and sinologists untrained in philosophy, with "a philosophically sensitive account of Confucian moral self-cultivation, as represented by important figures...who presented distinct and diverse views" (xi). He offers Confucian perspectives as worthy contributions to the American university "canon," and hopes to stimulate ethical philosophers to consider the real practice of moral cultivation (98). In his discussion of the thinkers, Ivanhoe expertly outlines each man's model of self-cultivation, and briefly compares those models. As always, Ivanhoe's style is clear and precise, though the work's format sometimes occasions arguments that are less full-bodied than one would wish. Each chapter can be read as a sound and sophisticated summary of a major Confucian thinker, and many will find the entire volume a splendid, up-to-date introduction to Confucian thought by a reliable scholar.

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