

Table of Contents

“Preface” **i**
 Why Open Source?..... i
 A Note about Selections ii
Index..... **3**

“Preface”

Why Open Source?



Tabulae Rudolphinae: quibus astronomicae... by Johannes Kepler, 1571-1630, NOAA

Many classic works in Eastern philosophy are accessible *via* online sources on the Internet. Fortunately, many of the influential and abiding works are in the public domain; these readings provide a convenient way to produce quality learning experiences for almost anyone seeking information and help. Our present collection of edited readings is free but subject to the legal notice following the title page.

By placing these selections in the public domain under the GFDL, the editors are, in effect, "open-sourcing" this product, in part, to minimize costs to interested students of philosophy and, in part, to make the readings widely available in a form convenient to a variety of readers. Moreover, users themselves can improve the product if they wish to do so. Viewed in this way, the release of these readings is, in a genuine sense, a small test of the Delphi effect in open-source publishing.

This particular edition is not a completed work. It is the first step in the development of the open-source text. The development model of *Readings in Eastern Philosophy* is loosely patterned on the "release early, release often" model champi-

“Preface”

oned by Eric S. Raymond.¹ With the completion of version 1.0, various formats of this work can be made available for distribution. If the core reading and commentary prove useful, the successive revisions, readings, commentary, and other improvements by users can be released in incrementally numbered “stable” versions.

A Note about Selections

Some reading selections in this collection of papers have deletions of text *in passim*; in addition, the ideas are often examined out of their literary and historical context. The main focus for our approach to philosophy, however, is not so much on historical understanding as it is on the use of germinal ideas to spark thinking about some significant issues of life and thought.

In general, as the difficulty of the reading increases, the length of the selection assigned for reading should decrease. For example, the abridged *Bhagavad Gita* and the *Dhammapada* probably should not be read in one sitting. The main consideration for selection and inclusion in this short text is to introduce primary sources accessible to a wide variety of readers, including high school and homeschooling students. In addition to this core set of readings, supplementary readings are in process of publication.

Please send questions or inquiries of interest to the “Editors” at

<philbook@philosophy.lander.edu>

1. Eric Raymond. *The Cathedral and the Bazaar*. Sebastopol, CA: O’Reilly & Associates, 1999. Online at The Cathedral and the Bazaar (<http://www.catb.org/~esr/writings/cathedral-bazaar/>).

Index

Delphi effect, i
GFDL, i
Kepler, Johannes, i
Raymond, Eric S., ii