



The Propensity of Things - Toward a History of Efficacy in China (Hardback)

By Francois Jullien

ZONE BOOKS, United States, 1996. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand New Book. In this book, his first to appear in English, French sinologist Francois Jullien uses the Chinese concept of shi-meaning disposition or circumstance, power or potential-as a touchstone to explore Chinese culture and to uncover the intricate structure underlying Chinese modes of thinking. In this strikingly original contribution to our understanding of Chinese philosophy, Francois Julien, a French sinologist whose work has not yet appeared in English, uses the Chinese concept of shimeaning disposition or circumstance, power or potential-as a touchstone to explore Chinese culture and to uncover the intricate and coherent structure underlying Chinese modes of thinking. A Hegelian prejudice still haunts studies of ancient Chinese civilization: Chinese thought, never able to evolve beyond a cosmological point of view, with an indifference to any notion of telos, sought to interpret reality solely on the basis of itself. In this groundbreaking study, prejudices toward the simplicity and naivete of Chinese thought, Hegelian and otherwise, are dismantled one by one to reveal the intricate and coherent structure underlying Chinese modes of thinking and representing reality. Jullien begins with a single Chinese term, shi, whose very ambivalence and disconcerting...



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