

*Encountering Buddhism* is a translation of *Zoujin Fojiao* from Mandarin Chinese to English. *Zoujin Fojiao* is a prominent example of a genre known as ‘morality books’, popular tracts that advocate Buddhist values. Such texts are a central aspect of lay Buddhism in China in the post-Mao era, a means by which lay Buddhists maintain their religious discourse, spread their message to potential converts, and gain merit for themselves in their own moral system by propounding sacred wisdom. This translation marks a contribution to the study of contemporary Chinese religion by adding a widely popular text to the (severely lacking) body of primary sources available to English speakers on this topic. The goal of the translation is to convey as closely as possible the exact contextual meaning of the original, rather than to evoke its literary “feel”. The introduction to the translation, composed by the translator, discusses issues in the process of translation and provides some of the historical and cultural context from which the original comes.