



## The Tao Te Ching

William Strunk, Jr. (1815-1897)

Read by:	Nicholas James Bridgewater	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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*The Elements of Style* is a guide to writing American English written in 1918 by Cornell University English professor William Strunk, Jr. for use in the university. It was published by Harcourt in 1920 and became an indispensable tool for writers of all stripes. It consists of “eight ‘elementary rules of usage’, ten ‘elementary principles of composition’, ‘a few matters of form’, a list of 49 ‘words and expressions commonly misused’, and a list of 57 ‘words often misspelled.’” Originally a short 52-page manual, it was eventually revised by *New Yorker* writer E. B. White, who had studied under Strunk, used the manual, and wrote a feature on Strunk and his dedication to lucid English prose. The revised edition, often referred to as “Strunk & White”, sold

over two million copies on release in 1959 and has sold over ten million copies in three editions. This audiobook is a reading of the original 1920 edition. Perhaps the highest praise came from American poet Dorothy Parker once proclaimed, “If you have any young friends who aspire to become writers the second-greatest favor you can do them is to present them with copies of *The Elements of Style*. The first-greatest, of course, is to shoot them now, while they’re happy.” (*Quotations from Wikipedia*)

**William Strunk, Jr.** (July 1, 1869 – September 26, 1946) is best known as the author of *The Elements of Style*. He was born the eldest of four children in Cincinnati and earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Cincinnati and a PhD from Cornell University. After a year at the Sorbonne and a brief tenure teaching mathematics, he became professor of English at Cornell University, where he taught for 46 years. He also published a book on poetical forms, *English Metres*, and compiled critical editions of *The Last of the Mohicans*, several Dryden works, and several Shakespeare plays. He consulted with MGM on the film *Romeo and Juliet* in the mid-thirties and retired from Cornell in 1937.