



Li Zhi, Confucianism, and the Virtue of Desire

By Pauline C. Lee

State University of New York Press, United States, 2013.

Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 152 mm. Language:

English . Brand New Book. Li Zhi (1527 1602) was a bestselling

author with a devoted readership. His biting, shrewd, and

visionary writings with titles like A Book to Hide and A Book to

Burn were both inspiring and inflammatory. Widely read from

his own time to the present, Li Zhi has long been acknowledged

as an important figure in Chinese cultural history. While he is

esteemed as a stinging social critic and an impassioned writer, Li

Zhi s ideas have been dismissed as lacking a deeper or

constructive vision. Pauline C. Lee convincingly shows us

otherwise. Situating Li Zhi within the highly charged world of the

late-Ming culture of feelings, Lee presents his slippery and unruly

yet clear and robust ethical vision. Li Zhi is a Confucian thinker

whose consuming concern is a powerful interior world of

abundance, distinctive to each individual: the realm of the

emotions. Critical to his ideal of the good life is the ability to

express one s feelings well. In the work s conclusion, Lee brings Li

Zhi s insights into conversation with contemporary philosophical

debates...



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