

Order. Semiconsciously the Taoist movement represented an attempt to form a Chinese counterpart of Buddhism which was to be used as a weapon to resist the further encroachment of that alien religion. A formidable panel of Taoist deities was invented to rival the Bodhisattvas and a voluminous Taoist Cannon mostly conscious imitations of the Buddhist suttras, was forged to compete with the Buddhist Tripitaka. The philosophical writings of ancient Taoists, mediaeval alchemy, occultism, magic, charms and spells,--every thing available was seized upon as material to be woven into the native fabric for boycotting the multi-coloured and multifarious products of the Indian imagination.

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#### A Sterile Heritage.

But the co-mixture of the nihilistic philosophy of Taoism with the passive and quietistic religion of Buddhism seemed to have undermined the active and dynamic character of the race. Meditation and contemplation were emphasised by both Buddhism and Taoism from which these ideals were passed on to the rational philosophers of the later ages. Esoteric introspection took the place of active life for ordering and betterment of external conditions. Hair-splitting scholasticism replaced the social and political reforms. The Sung and Ming philosophers always taught their disciples to sit in meditation, to be "like the clay-made man!" They never took the trouble to ask themselves, whereas the Buddhist practised dhyana or Zen