

From an email written by Henry Claflin, practitioner of Chinese medicine in Toronto (published here with his permission):

Hi Sabine, I am an Eastern medicine practitioner in Toronto. I'm not even halfway through your newest book (the first I've read from you, beyond your blog here, but it definitely will not be the last), but I had to write. I am so inspired. We read Zhu Ming's Su Wen in school and I couldn't believe this dry stilted thing was supposed to be the heart of our medicine. Then later I read Unschuld, Ni, Wu & Wu, Wu (Ling shu), and consistently I said to myself, "There has to be a better way to do this." I feel that your book is that better way. As a practitioner, teacher, school administrator, and (very very rudimentary) student of classical Chinese language, the layers in your book are so very welcome and brilliantly useful. Having the original Chinese, the long passages of historical commentary (in Chinese too!), the literal translations, and extensive commentary on your selection of phrasing and word choice and on the meaning based on context within the text and the corpus that the original authors would be steeped in-- all of this is necessary and it is amazing to actually see it pulled off! Truly, I dream of seeing something like this for many of the chapters in the Su Wen and Ling Shu. I have enough understanding of the language and classical grammar to feel when a translation might be lacking, but not enough to be confident in an alternative interpretation. Your book is perfect for this unique predicament and is helping me better understand the process of translation. I also love that you leave some things open to interpretation and alternative meanings--I feel like this is rarely done so explicitly in classical studies. The honesty of it is a gift to future readers, practitioners, and translators. I know this is a long message, I just wanted to express my gratitude for what must have been an enormous undertaking. Please know that it is deeply appreciated.