

SERIES PREFACE

The Daoist Scriptures in Translation Series was launched by the Centre for Studies of Daoist Culture of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), as commissioned by the World Federation of Daoism, thanks to the financial sponsorship by the Hong Kong Taoist Association. Established in 2006, the Centre for Studies of Daoist Culture is an international focal point for teaching, research, and publication on Daoism. This series aims to meet the growing needs of Chinese communities in English-speaking countries and Daoist adepts worldwide in their pursuit of the Daoist faith and in daily rituals and recitation of scriptures.

In the Daoist faith, reciting scriptures is the most important and direct way to cultivate one's spirit and true perfection. By serving as a reliable resource for understanding Daoist scriptures and liturgical texts, this series endeavors to establish itself as a standard reference for practitioners, scholars, and laypersons alike in their enquiries and journeys into the Daoist religion. The main objective of this series is to convey the profound tenets and meanings of Daoist teachings, as well as the intricate religious elements and nuances, accurately and idiomatically in the English context, by means of detailed studies of the source text and careful consideration in the translation process. It is hoped that the translation and transmission of Daoist scriptures will play an active role in disseminating and promoting traditional Chinese

culture and heritage across the world and in underscoring the place of Daoism not only within the Chinese tradition but also among the religions of the world. Our warm thanks go to our sponsor, the Hong Kong Taoist Association, and the editorial team of The Chinese University of Hong Kong Press for making this possible.

Lai Chi Tim
Director, Centre for Studies of Daoist Culture
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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FOREWORD

Master Li Guangfu

In this era of ever-increasing global cultural exchange, the translation and dissemination of Daoist classics play a vital role in the transmission and promotion of traditional Chinese culture and heritage. It is also a timely response to the growing needs of both the Daoist community and academia around the world. At the inaugural meeting of the World Federation of Daoism, the Hong Kong Taoist Association graciously agreed to take on this important mission of translating the *Daoist Liturgy of the Most High for Daily Recitation* into English. After more than two years of hard work and dedicated efforts, the English translation of the scripture is now being published. As a translation of one of the most widely used liturgical scriptures for daily cultivation, this publication marks a major milestone for the World Federation of Daoism's Daoist Scriptures in Translation Project.

This project was faced with quite a few challenges from the beginning, as Daoist scriptures often convey profound tenets and principles in religious language with covert underlying meanings and unique rhythms and cadences. Accurately delivering the tenets and essence of the scriptures in such an intercultural setting, while paying due attention to the flow of the language and cultural nuances, requires a range of outstanding expertise. To this end, the World Federation of Daoism entrusted the project to the Hong Kong Taoist Association, which coordinated with the Centre for Studies of Daoist Culture at The Chinese University of Hong Kong

to undertake the actual translation work. In this process, all parties reached a consensus that the translated text must be appropriate in the English context while staying in keeping with the principles of “faithfulness, comprehensibility, and elegance” in translation. Careful deliberation of the text is also necessary to ensure an accurate representation of the elements and principles of Daoism across languages and cultures.

The successful completion of the present translation owes very much to the coordination of the Hong Kong Taoist Association, the expert translation by the Centre for Studies of Daoist Culture, as well as everyone involved in its review and publication. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all of them.

As the first outcome of the Daoist Scriptures in Translation Project, this English translation aims to serve as a standard text for non-Chinese-speaking Daoist adepts in their everyday practice of cultivation, as well as a reliable source of reference for scholars in Daoist studies and sinology worldwide. It is hoped that this book will connect Daoist practitioners in the East and West, lay a foundation for the spread of Daoism in the English-speaking world, and pave the way for future translations and studies of Daoist scriptures.

The Dao is never far from us; its scriptures shall travel across the seas. May this English edition benefit all Daoist practitioners, bringing enlightenment towards the way of perfection in the wondrous realm.

Master Li Guangfu
Chairman, World Federation of Daoism

FOREWORD

Master Leung Tak-wah

Daoism, as a religion, has a long and rich history, its traditions and heritage passed down over the generations. A core part of the faith has always been to spread the teachings of the Dao for the enlightenment of the masses. Daoist texts convey the truths of Heaven and Earth and offer cultivation wisdom for one's physical and mental well-being, ultimately helping all beings find peace and enlightenment. For Daoist adepts, reciting scriptures is the most important and direct way of cultivation. The *Daoist Liturgy of the Most High for Daily Recitation*, solemn in its language and profound in its intent, can serve as a stepping stone for cultivation, as it includes scriptures and precious proclamations for morning and evening recitation, which showcases the very spirit and culture of Daoism.

As the faith spreads overseas, we are witnessing a growing number of Daoist followers all over the world. Language barriers, however, prevent many of them from devoting themselves to the tradition of scripture recitation. It has thus become imperative to make such seminal Daoist texts available and accessible to Daoist followers from diverse ethnic and language backgrounds, so that they can engage with scriptures and liturgies according to orthodox rules and methods. This opens the door to a sacred experience and deepens understanding of Daoist teachings.

To connect those drawn to the Dao with its sacred texts, I am therefore committed to this important mission on behalf of the Hong Kong Taoist Association and at the behest of the World Federation of Daoism to facilitate the publication of a Chinese-English translation of the present liturgical text in collaboration with the Centre for Studies of Daoist Culture at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. This book will mark a major milestone in our translation initiative. A fruit of painstaking study and careful scrutiny of the text and its religious and cultural implications, it will lay a solid foundation for liturgical practice at the altar.

This bilingual publication combines traditional Daoist liturgies with scholarly expertise in Daoist studies and translation. The translated text strives to preserve the religious elements of Daoism without compromising its lucidity and conciseness in English. As such, the translation goes beyond merely converting the words of the Dao into another language; even in a different cultural context, it captures and stays true to the spirit of Daoism, in its philosophy, ritual content, and instructions for cultivation.

We are honored to have been part of this monumental project, as its true value lies not only in the translation itself, but in its power to bridge Daoism and the global community. We believe this bilingual edition of the liturgy will become the essential guide for cultivating Daoists overseas and a key resource for the academic study of Daoist liturgies and scriptures. We hope it will transcend linguistic and geographical boundaries, enabling people around the world to access invaluable Daoist teachings and culture.

May this book traverse the world and serve as a bridge for dialogue and friendship between the Daoist communities in China and the world.

May the Heavenly Worthy's compassion and beneficence reach far and near.

May Daoist teachings prosper and endure for generations
to come.

Master Leung Tak-wah
Chairman, Hong Kong Taoist Association;
Vice Chairman, World Federation of Daoism

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I wish to express my appreciation to the members of the Daoist translation and Chinese-English glossary team at the Centre for Studies of Daoist Culture, who have worked closely with me on this and other ambitious bilingual projects over the past few years.

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Last but not least, I am grateful to colleagues at The Chinese University of Hong Kong Press for their enthusiasm for this project from the very beginning and for seeing it through the entire publication process smoothly.

Lai Chi Tim

Director, Centre for Studies of Daoist Culture

The Chinese University of Hong Kong