

Preface

Kuanyin Tzu, or True Man of Wenshih, is Yin Hsi, Frontier Commander of Hankukuan Pass. He is one of the ten great thinkers in The Pre-Ch'in Period. He is also a senior official, general and philosopher as well as an educator in The Eastern Chou Dynasty. He is a founder of the Taoist School and a contemporary of Lao Tzu. He is the first man in inheriting and propagating *Lao Tzu* or *Tao Te Ching* in human history. According to *Historical Records*, "Lao Tzu studied the theory of Tao and virtue which takes living in seclusion and no-name as its top priority. He lived in the capital of The Eastern Chou Dynasty for a long time and seeing that The Eastern Chou Dynasty was on the decline, he left there. When he arrived at Hankukuan Pass, Yin Hsi, Frontier Commander of Hankukuan Pass, said to him, 'You're going to live in seclusion. Would you please be so kind as to write a book for me?' Thus, Lao Tzu wrote a book consisting of Part One and Part Two which describes the contents of Tao and virtue with over 5,000 Chinese characters and then he left. Nobody knew where he had gone." This book is called *Lao Tzu* or *Tao Te Ching*, a classical work with the largest number of editions and the largest number of publications in human history.

Kuanyin Tzu wrote *Kuanyin Tzu*, also called *True Scripture of Wenshih*. This work is second to *Tao Te Ching* and its Tao is similar to the Tao of *Tao Te Ching*, so *Chuang Tzu-On the Schools of Thought All*

over China describes Lao Tzu's Taoist theory and Kuanyin Tzu's Taoist theory in the same breath and praises them as "the great true men with profound learning in ancient times". Its main points set store by essence and mind, being indifferent and taking non-action, keeping quiet by oneself, making use of nothingness alone and changing with things. This book is composed of nine essays. From a unique perspective, Kuanyin Tzu presents the boundless "Tao" before the people in the world. The essays in his work are characterized by profound implications, rich contents and beautiful wordings ranging from reading books and doing deeds to getting along with people and from daily life to ideological cultivation and from reason to truth, which reflect the contents of Tao to the greatest extent. There are many aphorisms in the work such as "Don't despise a trifle as a small crack can sink a boat; don't despise a small thing as a small insect can poison a person; don't despise a mean man as a mean man can destroy a state" among other things. All these are the sediments of the experience and wisdom which our ancient ancestors had accumulated for a long time, which undoubtedly prove to be the alarm bell to the people from all walks of life including the rulers and businessmen among others in today's world.

The ancient hermits admired Kuanyin Tzu very much and said that the work of *Kuanyin Tzu* was the most profound and subtle among all the works collected of Taoist school. The so-called "Wen-shih" can be understood as the beginning of civilization. Having received Lao Tzu's instruction, Kuanyin Tzu studied the Great Tao, de-

veloped wisdom and made achievements, which was the highest realm of human civilization. This work elaborates the law of the universe and nature with cultivating one's moral character as its theme so as to make it possible for the reader to experience the truth in nothingness.