儒 佛道之信 仰 研究

宗教叢書



佛 道 之 信 仰 跡鏡

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AN INTRODUCTION

It is my privilege, as editor and publisher, to write a few introductory lines to 'The Beliefs of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism', by Prof. Dr. John Tu Wang Che, especially for those who do not fluently read the Chinese text of this competent guide to the rich mazes of Chinese culture and religion.

Throughout the ages Chinese culture was built on the three pillars of Confucianism, Buddism and Taoism. Each of those is still a living reality; together they continue to exert a profound influence on today's religious concepts, customs and behavior.

Among the profane classics of all times the Shu Ching (書經) is probably the most 'religious' one. In it the Supreme Deity appears as the absolute, immaterial and highest authority.

In the Shih Ching (詩經) we read: "The presence of God on high is perceived neither by ear nor nose". In other words: God is not an object of man's sensations. It is clear, then, that the Supreme Deity of the Shih Ching is super-material.

The I Ching (易經) also regards the Supreme Being as personal and immaterial. In some places it confounds this Being with the Sky, although

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the confusion is nowhere complete or concrete. On the other side, this Chinese classic initiates the T'ai Chi (太極) pantheism, on which later Neo-Confucianism further and profusely elaborates. In it the Supreme Deity is sometimes conceived as a super-material and at other times, as a material being. These Neo-Confucian concepts have much in common with those of Buddhism and Taoism.

Buddhism rejects every anthropomorphic idea of the Deity; it can, therefore, be called atheistic in its denial of an Absolute that has the fragility and impermanence of human beings. Yet, Buddhism accepts an Absolute that is abstract and concrete, supermaterial and material, and, therefore, more or less pantheistic. The Buddhist goal of man's life is to become absorbed into the Absolute. The great gods of ancient India, Bhagavat (婆伽梵) Deva (天) and Ishvara(伊禄代羅),— all of them sometimes identified with Buddha, (佛) must, just like mortal men, earn their Nirvana(涅槃), which is the component ensueing from the mixture of the Supreme Deity as absolute form (forma absoluta) with prime matter (materia prima).

It should be noted that ordinary people hardly pay any attention to this concept: they merely need and are satisfied with their personal, concrete deities.

. Although the Sky-God is also found in Taoism,

it appears of minor importance in the shadow of Tao (道). Tao itself, however, is only a defective appellation of the Absolute, which, after all being unnameable, cannot be adequately expressed in a name. Tao is abstract and immaterial, but pantheistically pervades all matter. Taoism as philosophy accepts the original creator of the universe and of mankind, and regards him as a personal God. In its later evolution, Taoism as religion invents a new God: Yuan-Shih-T'ien-Tsuen (元始天尊), the Original-Sovereign-Sky-Deity, the precursor of the famous Yu Huang (玉皇), the Jade Emperor, who, according to Dr. Prof. Tu, - is a fusion of the Sky-God and the Buddha, and as such becomes outstandingly important in Chinese religious concepts.

It is a historical fact that Taoism as religion,—although it possesses a rich foundation of valuable concepts,—borrowed abundantly from Buddhism and even from Confucianism. Consequently, today it seems to have lost much of its original purity, although,— and probably because of this synchretistic fusion,— its influence, especially in Taiwan, remains very profound.

Summarizing the author's ideas on the acceptance and characteristics of the Supreme Being in China's religions, it seems that the concept of a personal, immaterial God is explicitly present in Confucianism

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and in philosophical Taoism. Taoism as religion accepts the Confucian Sky-God. The Confucian T'ai Chi, the Taoist Tao and the Buddhist Nirvana present more or less similar characteristics short of a complete identification.

The author estimates that the importance of the concept of a unique, absolute and ubiquitous deity is about completely lost on ordinary people. For them any god who can and will help and protect them is 'number one'.

No wonder, then, that people all over the world,as well as in China,- became practical polytheists.

In the pantheon of Confucianism belong the deities of sun, moon and stars, those of wind, thunder and rain, and those of rivers, mountains and earth. The earth-god (土地神) in Confucian literature is identical to the moon-god (月神).

The polytheism of Taoism has much in common with Confucian polytheism and invents, moreover, a large host of spirits of its own; f.i. Lutsu (呂祖) Matsu (媽祖) and the 28 constellations (二十八宿).

Buddhist popular religion admits as objects of its cult Yama (閻王), Kshitigarba (地藏王) and Avalokitesvara (觀音); also the sun, the moon and the stars, f.i. Ketu (彗星) and Angaraka (熒惑) in addition to many minor deities, the Vajras (金剛).

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Ordinary people do not make any distinction between the cult objects of Buddhism and Taoism and in the rituals and ceremonies of the two there are no or at least very minor discrepancies.

Taoism stresses the existence and also the multiplicity or multiformity of the human soul. According to original Confucian concepts the soul is unique and personal, although in later development there appears the idea of the soul's dualism. In the Buddhist canon we find the famous dispute about the existence of the human soul; in practice, the Buddhist scholars reject and popular religion accepts its existence. The Buddhist rebirth-nirvana concepts are indiscriminately adopted by Taoism, but they remain till today alien to Confucianism, which has only some very nebulous ideas about man's yenseits situation.

In both Buddhism and Taoism,—the latter borrowing from the former,—one finds the heaven, paradise and hell notions. The literary and pictorial representations especially of the hell tortures but also of heaven's joys are amazingly abundant, concrete and realistic both in Buddhism and Taoism, while they are almost completely absent in the Confucian canon.

The three traditional religions of China equally stress the importance of morals and ethics.

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Summarizing it may be said that the three religions all present a true and noble heritage together with some serious defects and errors.

Dr. Prof. John Tu Wang Che penetratingly and succinctly studies and analyses monotheism, polytheism and pantheism, man and his post mortem destinies, the existence of the soul, heaven, and hell in Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism. Implicitly the author eloquently reveals the fact that the authentic foundations of Chinese culture are spiritual and religious, and that a true revival of China's greatness depends on its return to these spiritual and religious values. In this sense 'The Beliefs of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism' is, without any doubt an important contribution to the 'Renaissance of Chinese Culture'.

Taipei, October 10, 1968
P. A. Geusens

仰 對 象 仐 者 日 尤 學 小 科 已多分 0 宗 敎 菛 以 勸 别 善 類 爲 , 學 目 的 者 研 , 可 究 以 什 熨科 補 法 律 目 之不 的 都 足 有 , 0 但 只 是 勸 對 善 於宗 動 カ 敎 的 本 研 身 究 如 者 何 不 ? 多 明 , 平 豣 此 究 信 ,

則 善 行 善 報 , 方不 落 空 , 故 當 明 白 信 仰 對 象 ٥

主 著 張 儒 書 儒 家 佛 , 非宗 更 道 易 的 宗 敎 使 敎 人 然 作 興 儒 文 比 化 家 較 有 , , 已 宗 ___ 敎 目 深 T 入 國 然 人 • 的 佛 道 心 坎 是 宗 , 影響 敎 , 但 至 鉅 儒 家 , 很值得 是 否 宗 敎 作 姓 , 學 研 者 究 意 0 見 如 果 不 將 同 , ·我 者 們 合

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具 叉 亦 了 不 有 體 以 惸 欲 部 天 儒 貴 分 承 爲 家 之觀 名的 認 的 , 興 宗 有 儒 念 影響 教 神 並 , , 0 行 佛 但 是 0 當 道 儒 直 0 本 皆 從 家 承 陷 書 研 原 叉 於 究 旣 有 始 以 泛 上 許 遊 研 神 懷 多 牧 文化 究 論 得 神 信 中 其 , 仰 觀 但 的 , 念之真 儒 對 都 天 家部 象 神 屬 爲 於 , 目 IE 天 簡 分 o 的 帝 的 潔 道教 意 管 高 2 義 故 理 向 ÉD 亦 也 ... , 研 如 有 佛 雕 究 道 此 許 然 儒 多 略 則 . 0 神 中 佛 與 有 図 道 原 些 , 始 之 佛 蒼 人 自 算 数 的 天 然 儒 亦 的 農 然 業 神 , 意 學 但 , 文 味 佛 但 1 . 0 , 後 相 這 道 者 關 是 以 其 似 ,

勸 Ĵ 的 修 胂 學 教 行 義 可 m 分 神 已 爲 壆 0 敎 佛 律 道 的 有 敎 , 修 律 行 , 的 並 有 , 及 極 敎 好 之修 義 的 行 0 儒 訓 家 獋 • 旣 但 非 非 宗 本 敎 , 亦 硏 無 之對 明 定 之教律 象 , 這 , 所 只 順 硏 究 人 的 天 性

處?有否樂土及冥獄?其中的情景又如何 成分?其推演程度又如何?人是否有靈魂?有什麼記載?其內容又如何解釋?人在身後 何 道 , 多此 都可說明人類 月亮 神話 神話 i,儒家· 夾雜在宗教中,這是全人類共有的文化,中國 ,是神及靈魂的 有基本信 也不是沒有,此實爲史前文化。佛道不 仰。 問 題 2。儒佛》 ?有如 道最 何的神話 主要的神 南方與印度是 ?這些問題都當如何解答?無論 是誰?神 ·同,但皆饒有同樣 的屬性如何? (此神 話之與 神話 是否有推 盛

興 神 話合 本 書對繁雜資料 成一 個,甚至把宗教神話與形上思想合成一 割愛,只把基本教義直指出來 ,證據注重系統化 個,儒家的易經在部分意義上也是 , 使讀者! 得到 簡 , 把宗教 如 明

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民 (國五十七年四月二十七日序於台北 市

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儒佛道之信仰研究

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上編 儒家之信仰對象

第一章 尚書的天帝

容皆 爲眞 尙 書是一部宗教書,幾乎篇篇說宗教。本文所用的資料 尙 書,是周 朝的資料 9 , 是孫 **尾衍尚書**今古 文注

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内

誕受羑若。」羑等於牖字,為誘導之意,言文武受天神之誘導。康誥••「天乃大命文王 首耳。」天神是天子及民衆之父。顧命下:「敢敬告天子,皇天改大邦殷之命,惟周文武 材:「皇天旣付中國民,越厥疆土于先王。」言天神將天下給予周之先王。立政 天神立君以治民,呂刑:「今天相 ,陟丕釐上帝之耿命 召誥篇:「皇天上帝,改厥元子。」鄭玄注:「言首子者,凡人皆云天之子,天子爲之 。」言成湯能勅理上帝之光命 (助也) 民,作配在下。」言天神立君使之順天治民 0 **4:**「亦: 越 成

陰隔 (爲保護及安定之意)下民。」召誥••「天亦哀于四方民」 天神憐惜並保護民衆,(註一),洪範上:「王 (周武王) 0 乃 言 君奭・「天惟純佑 日 嗚呼!箕子 İ 則 惟 天

孫星 •• 「天聰明,自我民聰明;天明畏 衍 疏 「言天大助命于有威儀可則者 (同威) · 天神對於天子之好壞,往往藉 ,自我民明威 聰明謂 視聽 重 , 民意 孟 子萬章 ,阜 陶

• 「天視自我民視,天聽自我民聽。

引

之難信 天命不易 德標 賴 爲 0 <u>م</u> 0 卽 皐 人類 含天 陶謨 同篇 道 命不可改易。 上••「天敍有典。」典 徳之標準 「天不可信」 顧 之意, 君爽也說••「……天命不易 命下 :「皇天用訓厥 天不可信賴 ,常也,言天之倫序有常 ,即言天意不可 道 ,付畀四 。」 又說: 方 測 法 臆 0 大誥 , 言 天 削 天 • 難 神 inscrutable 火 諶 向 Ļ 爾 民 亦不 衆訓 言天 知 告 神

天 具 嚴敬 (同上) 「不敢替 無 天威也 (盤 論 何 庚) 人 。 並 且 , , 都當敬天畏天,洛誥: 無墜 (廢也) 敬忌 (失也) 天之降寶命。」 天威 上帝 。 ___ 命 0 (顧 敬 天之休 命 下 , 又當 つ 。」休,美也 敬事 具嚴天威」 L 帝 ° L ,當敬美善的 (呂刑) 立 政) , , 天 孫疏 神 拿 , : 上 恪 蘲 當 ٥

棄脈 恐 我 **然先神祗** 後 棄厥 奔告于王曰:天子!天既訖 道 殷商之亡,由於不遵神命 。微子・「今殷民乃攘窃神祗之犧牷 肆祀 惟王 不 佛答」 祀 淫戯用 殷商 0 泰哲: 自絕 重宗 ,故天 教, ,蔑 「今殷王紂 視倫常 棄我。」又: JŁ 商 湯曾伐 也)我殷命 • ,輕慢宗 葛伯 牲 乃用其婦人之言,毀壞其三正 。」墨子天志中引泰 , **,因其不** 「今我民罔弗欲喪 格人元龜 教所致,牧誓:「今商 祀 , 罔敢 禍由 知吉 自招 誓,以紂 ,日·天曷不降威 , 西伯戡 非先王不 Ŧ 。 三 正 受,惟婦 「不肯事 黎 相 , ? 民 Ŀ 天地 言是 (助 寙 帝 也 伊 用