

Life Education

— Selected Readings of
Tao Xingzhi's English Works
(English-Chinese)

Authored by Tao Xingzhi

生活 教育

—— 陶行知英文著作精选 (英汉双语)

陶行知 著

Compiled by
Zhou Hongyu, Du Xiaoshuang
and Zhou Wending

周洪宇 杜小双 周文鼎 编译

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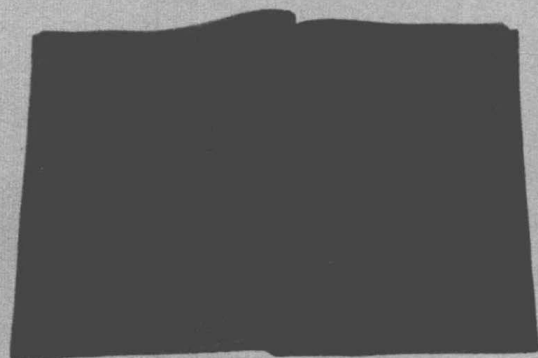
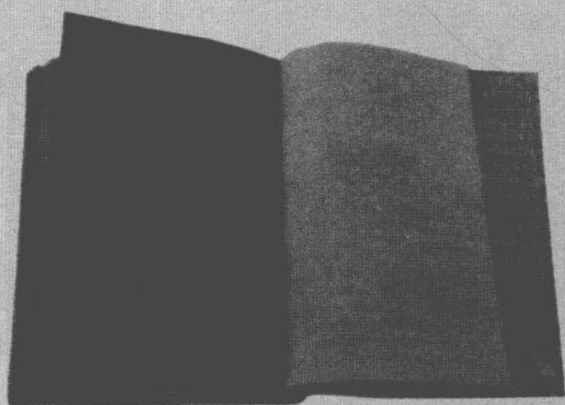
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民之所惡惡之
教人民進步者
拜人民為老師！

陶行知



Preface

Tao Xingzhi (*Tao Hsing-Chih*, 1891-1946) is a famous educator, a great thinker, a democratic statesman and a popular writer in modern China and is revered as “the Cultural Giant of the 20th century.” Mao Zedong honored him as “the Great People’s Educator,” and the famous Chinese poet Guo Moruo equaled Tao with China’s Confucius. Chinese President Xi Jinping called on all teachers to learn from Tao and to practice his well-known motto “Every time we teach, we teach the truest; every time we learn, we learn the purest.” Across the world, Japanese scholar Saito Akio believed that “Tao Xingzhi is Chinese, but he belongs to the whole world.” Professor David Hansen from Columbia University nominated Tao Xingzhi as one of the top 10 influential educators in the 20th century, equivalent to Dewey from the US and Montessori from Italy.

After several early years’ of traditional Chinese education, Tao went to a Christian school to learn western subjects. He then studied in the University of Nanking, and later proceeded to University of Illinois and Columbia University. With a solid and cross-cultural education, Tao grew to be a versatile and eloquent young man with a special aptitude for English language. He had published many

English articles and did translation work for professors from Columbia University including Dewey, Paul Monroe and William Kilpatrick. In later years, Tao Xingzhi wrote a number of articles to introduce China's educational reforms and delivered many speeches to introduce China's developments and changes to the world. All his English works have impressive themes, profound thought and vivid language, so they are viewed as valuable literature and the important part of the treasure of Tao Xingzhi thought.

Against the backdrop of China's recent decades, Chinese culture is now open more consciously and confidently to the whole world. Tao Xingzhi and his thought are definitely the part that is worth to be discovered and understood by the world people. This year is the 125th anniversary of Tao Xingzhi's birth and the 70th anniversary of his death. To mark this special date, an international seminar themed "Tao Xingzhi and the Education of Chinese and Foreign Culture" will be held this October in Wuhan, Hubei jointly by Central China Normal University, the Tao Xingzhi Study Association of China and People's Education Press. We were greatly honored to be requested by the general manager of Hubei Education Press Mr. Fang Ping to select and translate the most representative works from Tao Xingzhi's English publications and to compile a book as the current one.

In the process of selecting, translating and compiling the articles, four major principles were followed: be respectful to Tao's original work, be loyal to the literary meaning, be comprehensive in content and be focused in theme. First, all the articles are Tao's work. The compilation precludes any possibility of alteration except for a few corrections on apparent errors. Second, the translation is mostly literary translation, so it was safely the representation of the original meaning. Third, this book selects articles of different genres and on different topics. Some are Tao Xingzhi's account on his own life experience and career plan; some are discussions about education; some expound on politics, religion or moral; some even touch upon subjects like simplifying Chinese language and publicizing cultural ideals. Fourth,

this book has a definite focus: Life Education. Other works, including Tao's English poems, fables, stories and some others, were saved from this collection due to their irrelevance to this theme.

The title of this book is "Life Education— Selected Readings of Tao Xingzhi's English Works". The Life Education Theory is the core of Tao Xingzhi's educational thoughts and the term encapsulates several conceptions like "life as education", "society is school" and "the combination of teaching, learning and working". Therefore, this term does not only pinpoint the main content and major theme of the book, but also present itself as a simple, clear word that we believe each reader would welcome.

This book is mainly based on "the Collected Works of Tao Xingzhi's" (*Tao Xingzhi Quan Ji*), published by Hunan Education Press three decades ago and also another edition published by Sichuan Education Press. My special thanks go to my colleagues from Central China Normal University including Professor Dong Baoliang and Professor Yu Benfa and the fellow researchers in the Tao Xingzhi Study Association of China like Hu Xiaofeng. We are also indebted to Dr. He Ronghan and Dr. Chu Zhaohui, whose works serve as valuable supporting materials for us. For those who have ever helped make this book possible, we extend our whole-hearted thanks.

Zhou Hongyu
Wuhan, Hubei

前 言

陶行知(1891—1946)是中国近现代著名的教育家、思想家、政治家和文学家,享誉世界的20世纪文化伟人。毛泽东称其为“伟大的人民教育家”,郭沫若尊之为“陶子”,将他与孔子并论。习近平以陶行知为教师楷模,号召全国教师要向陶氏那样“千教万教,教人求真”“千学万学,学做真人”。日本东京专修大学教授斋藤秋男认为“陶行知不仅是属于中国的,也是属于世界的”。美国哥伦比亚大学教授戴维德·汉森(David Hansen)在《教育的伦理视野——实践中的教育哲学》一书中,将陶行知列为20世纪最具影响力的十大教育思想家,与美国的杜威、意大利的蒙台梭利等世界教育大师并列。

陶行知幼年接受儒家传统文化教育,少年入基督教教会学校接受西学,青年时期先在教会系统的金陵大学求学,毕业后又先后留学于美国伊利诺斯大学和哥伦比亚大学。他中西贯通,博学多才,语言能力超群,尤擅英文,青年时代就开始发表多篇英文著作,五四时期,曾担任哥大教授杜威、孟禄、克伯屈等人在华的英文翻译。此后撰写了多篇介绍中国教育改革的英文文章,发表英语演讲,向全世界介绍中国的发展和变化。这些英文著作主题鲜明,思想深刻,文字生动,具有很高的文献价值,是陶行知思想宝库的重要组成部分。

在中国全面崛起,走向文化自觉和文化自信的当下,向全世界推介陶行知其人其事其说其行,很有必要,也很有意义。今年,恰逢陶行知诞生 125 周年,逝世 70 周年,华中师范大学、中国陶行知研究会和人民教育出版社将于 10 月在武汉联合举办以“陶行知与中外文化教育”为主题的国际学术研讨会。为纪念和研究陶行知,促进中外文化教育交流,我们应湖北教育出版社有限公司方平总经理之约,从陶行知的英文著作中精选 25 篇文章,编译了此书。

编者在编译本书的过程中,力求“尊重原作、忠于原文、全面反映、突出重点”。所谓“尊重原作”,就是编译时除个别明显瑕疵外,基本上不改动陶行知本人英文原作;“忠于原文”,即编者自译力求体现英文原作思想;“全面反映”,即本书既包括反映其人生经历和平生志向的简历自述,又有体现其教育思想的论著,还有论述政治、宗教和道德的文章,以及反映其简化汉语、普及文化理念的作品等;“突出重点”,即主要收入反映其“生活教育”学说和主张的论著,其他一些英文诗歌、寓言、故事以及英译中作品,就只得忍痛舍弃了。

本书书名定为《生活教育——陶行知英文著作精选》,主要基于“生活教育”本身就是陶行知教育思想理念的总称,可涵盖“生活即教育”“社会即学校”“教学做合一”等理念,用此书名可充分体现和反映书中基本内容和观点,简明扼要,一目了然。

本书编译过程中,参考了 30 多年前我与华中师大同事董宝良、喻本伐等人编辑出版的《陶行知全集》8 卷本(湖南教育出版社出版),与中国陶行知研究会同人胡晓风等人编辑出版的《陶行知全集》(四川教育出版社出版),以及近年来何荣汉博士、储朝晖博士等人的部分成果,在此一并表示衷心的感谢。

周洪宇

2016 年 7 月于武汉东湖之滨

目录



My Resume & My Plan of Life Career —To Dean J. E Russell	001	004	我的生活经历和今后打算 ——致罗素的信
Moral and Religious Instruction in China Mr. Chi's New Contribution	007	024	中国的道德与宗教教育
China in Transition	037	040	祁氏《新汉语字典》的新贡献
Statistical Summaries of Chinese Education	042	045	转型时期的中国
Education in China 1924	048	099	中国之教育统计
China	147	183	一九二四年中国教育状况
The Village Education Movement in China	209	219	中国
Creative Education	226	239	中国乡村教育运动之一斑
The Little Teacher and the Literacy Movement	248	252	创造性教育
The New Mass Education Movement	256	259	小先生和识字运动
China's New Language	261	264	新大众教育运动
China: The Mass Education Movement	267	271	中国新文字
	275	278	中国大众教育运动



War in China: Struggle for Liberty or Slavery	280	282	中国的抗战是不自由就受奴役的斗争
The People's Education Movement	284	300	中国的人民教育运动
China(1938)	311	327	中国(1938)
Yu Tsai School	340	346	育才学校
Education for All	351	360	全民教育
Letters to Gandhi, Tagore and others on China-India Communication	367	372	就加强中印交流互助致甘地、泰戈尔 等人函
Yu Tsai School Applying for UCR Grant —To Mrs. Louise Rugg	377	381	为育才学校向美国援华联合会申请 援助——致罗格夫人
Yu Tsai School Applying for Creative Relief —To Lady Cripps	385	388	为育才学校申请创造性救济 ——致克里普斯夫人
The Morning Village Research Institute Applying for Creative Relief —To Dr. Lennig Sweet	390	393	为晓庄研究所申请创造性救济 ——致甘霖林博士
Support for Project of the International Home Requested —To Dr. Lennig Sweet	395	398	吁请支持实施国际难童学校计划 ——致甘霖林博士
Support for the New Project of Democratic Education Requested —To Miss Mildred Price	401	404	吁请支持民主教育新计划 ——致毕来思女士
War Clique Blamed for Nanking Attack —Accusations Made at a Press Conference	407	413	就“下关事件”等问题和外国记者 的谈话

