

# Education is Tomorrow's Hope

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The 2003 special edition of Common Wealth Magazine on education indicates that the nations of the world will emphasize on “character education” in the twenty-first century. In 1989, the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization convened a seminar on the topic of facing the twenty-first century. The conference specifically pointed out that the challenges on morality, ethics, and values would be the primary issue facing human beings in the twenty-first century. As such, the nations of the world are seeking response to this issue and are finding solutions through education reform. With regard to the education in the new century, it is more important that students have better character than students becoming smarter. Sculpting citizens with activism, optimism, ethics and morals has become the emphasis of education for nations around the world.

The “Education of the Classics” is an optimal method of education which can assist parents to foster children to have the ability to face the future. “Education of the Classics” is an excellent educational method passed down from the ancestors, but it has been neglected for almost a hundred years. As early as some two thousand five hundred years ago, Confucius taught his disciples to maintain the families with Poetry and Propriety. “Education of the Classics” has always been the best educational method for Chinese to pass on culture, to develop wisdom, and to cultivate character. Today we have found a precious treasure, and we have found new hope for modern education in “Education of the Classics.” As such, having children study “the Four Books and the Five Classics” while they are young means that they are in contact with the most valuable classical writings when they have the purest heart and the best memory. The classics will be continuously repeated and reviewed in their young minds, inspiring them unobtrusively and imperceptibly at a subconscious level, thus becoming a lifelong source of far vision and virtuous character.

In the process of studying the classics, not only children’s memory will be trained, their hyperactive tendencies will be reduced, their concentration, ability to learn, ability to understand, ability to express will be increased, and their ability to speak, read, and write Chinese will be elevated. Moreover, studying classics can strengthen the learning of foreign languages and develop life wisdom for children, and can accomplish the comprehensive growth of children’s character.

## **How to Provide Good Education?**

### **1. Early Education is the Foundation for Life**

There is a saying that “a person’s adulthood is established at age three, and a person’s entire life is established at age five.” The early stage of a person is the essential time period for a person’s development of ability, character, and physique. The educators around the world today have a consensus that to foster properly the next generation, education must start when a person is a newborn, or better yet before the baby is born. Early childhood education has gradually

become the center of policy-making for countries around the world in the twenty-first century, and has become the focus of attention for all parents.

## **2. Cultural Education and the Heritage of Wisdom**

China has five thousand years of traditional culture. The wisdom and history of the ancestors are all passed down in the classics; especially, the classics from different schools encompass the entire universe and all things, thoughts and people, human relationships and morality. Every word contains wisdom, every composition reflects beauty. The classics are worthy for modern Chinese to instill in the minds of children to inherit the accumulated life wisdom of the ancient sages.

## **3. Developing Potentials**

Children have infinite ability to learn. If this ability can be developed properly, then it can cultivate the character of a person and establish the elegant intellect of the mind. As such, the next generation will consist of people with kind hearts and great ability. Educators should have this vision and responsibility. Educators should have this vision and responsibility.

## **4. Promotion of Comprehensive Education**

The concept of comprehensive education is having life as the center, and also consisting of social and cultural education. Therefore, aside from the ordinary arts, sports and practical trainings, the content of education should also be in accordance with the special learning characteristics of each child. This type of education utilizes materials with substance and is natural and enjoyable. In this regard, we must lay the cultural foundation to prepare for an education with high moral values, artistic appreciation, analytical skills and active self-learning and self-development.

## **5. Profound Cultivation Based on the Classics**

This type of education concept of “providing great substance” is called “Education of the Classics” or “Education Based on Reciting the Classics.” It consists primarily of reading the classics in Chinese and is supplemented with reading the classics in other languages, reading the classics with music, reading the classics with arts, etc. “Classics” are originally the product of human wisdom and are the timeless composition between Heaven and Earth. The classics of Chinese sages are especially elegant and have sophisticated language expressions, and they are the manifestation of the wisdom for achieving peace and stability both physically and spiritually. We hope that children can learn these infinite treasures from studying the classics for an extended period of time.

## **6. Follow the Examples of the Prior Worthies**

When we study Chinese history, we learn that when the great scholar O Yang Xiu was three, his mother used reed pipes to teach him to learn the classic and how to write. When Fan Zhong-yian was four, his mother also began his early education. Many other sages and worthies, such as Confucius, Mencius, Han Yu, Liu Zong-yuan, Huang Ting-jian, Bai Ju-yi, Lu Jiu-yuan, Zhu Xi, Wang Yang-ming, etc. all began learning to read and to study the classics when they reached age two or three, and they began reciting and composing poetry before they reached age ten. Their accomplishments were the result of being in touch with the best and the most beautiful classics, the Four Books and the Five Classics, and other literary work of Chinese culture, when they were young. They were able to memorize and recite these works from memory.

As Education of the Classics is flourishing domestically and overseas, the great phenomenon of the revival of Chinese culture is gradually forming, and it would eventually lead to the ideal that elders and youths are all well taken care of. Thus people's hearts will be transformed to goodness, and benefits for all human beings will be achieved. We believe that Education of the Classics will be in accordance with the timing of the twenty-first century and the trend of this era. It will create the greatest benefit for all people. As such, the substance of Education of the Classics is to use the most profound and most valuable classics as teaching materials, and to use the teaching method of instillation in the hearts and impression in the potential, at the golden time period of childhood when it is easiest to develop potentials and inspire wisdom, thus providing the most practical and effective care for life and the nourishment and foundation for life's strength. This result is not only hope and ideal; it has the most real evidence and fruition.

# 讀經是文化紮根的不二法門

一貫道世界總會 高斌凱 副理事長

一貫道世界總會理事長張老前人、副理事長陳大姑、各位長官、各位貴賓、各位老前人、各位前人、點傳師、各位道親，大家好！

今天是我们一貫道世界總會所舉辦的「狀元讀經評鑑會考暨金公祖師成道一百週年」慶祝活動，承蒙各位撥冗參加，讓本次活動更具意義，本人在此特別表示謝忱之意。

中國經典博大精深，意奧入微，不僅記載著所有聖賢畢生心血精華，更是涵蘊常理常道，教導人生常則常行的典籍，許多經典如中國的四書五經，西方的聖經，印度的佛經等，均已被世界各國譯成數種文字流傳著，因此，「讀經」不但能開啟人類的智慧，且更能薰陶出一個人的高尚人格與正氣，其深藏於骨髓的是沛然莫之能禦的生命資產。唯有「讀經」才是文化紮根的不二法門及有效途徑。

一貫道自歷代祖師以降，到各位老前人、前人，無不竭盡所能，盡心盡力，為提倡中華文化、改善社會風氣、恢復本性之良知良能，而復出與奉獻；尤其，面對千奇百怪層出不窮的社會問題，要想啟發理性、陶養性情、開拓見識，「讀經」應該是切實可行之方式。現在一貫道各組縣，不僅台灣地區提倡讀經，甚至世界很多國家也都提倡讀經，由此可見，一貫道為延續中華文化命脈，維護固有倫理道德，而舉辦這次活動，匯集海內外道親及道親子弟參與讀經會考，為文化紮根盡一份宗教人的責任與使命，這是一件非常有意義、有價值的活動。希望透過琅琅的讀經聲，涵養一個有天地之心、有風氣，帶給世界真實的和平與安樂。

感謝所有參與這次活動的組線、點傳師、以及道親前賢；更感謝所有從國內外遠道而來參與這次評鑑會考的考生。大家辛苦了！謝謝！

敬祝

大會圓滿成功

大家身心愉快

法喜充滿

# **Studying Chinese Scriptures is the Only Way to Establish the Roots of Our Culture**

Grand Master, Kao Ping-kai  
The Deputy Chairman of  
the Board of the World I-Kuan Tao

Great Grand Master Chang, the chairman of the Board of the World I-Kuan Tao, Madam Chen, Deputy Chairman of the Board, the supervisors, the distinguished guests, great grand masters, great masters, masters, friends, good morning to you all.

Today, we are celebrating the Examination for Scholars in Studying Chinese Scriptures and the Centennial of the Chin-Kung-Tsu-Shih Receiving Tao, which is sponsored by the World I-Kuan Tao. Your participation in this event certainly made the activity even more meaningful. I would like to express my utmost gratitude to you all.

The Chinese Scriptures are broad, profound, and present significant meanings. They not only record all sages lifetime learning, but also contain ample philosophy, which guide us to in-depth understanding on the theory of virtue. The various Scriptures include: The Chinese Four Books and the Five Classics, the Holy Bible, the Indian Buddhism, etc. all have been translated into different languages in wide circulation. Therefore, studying Chinese scriptures not only can enlighten the human wisdom, it can also influence one's dignity and righteousness. Moreover, it is hidden in one's soul that embodies such assets. Thus, studying Chinese Scriptures is the only way to establish the roots of our culture and the most effective method.

From the first generation of Grand Master through each successive generation of great grand masters, they have devoted their mental and physical energies in promoting the Chinese culture, to rectify social customs, to restore innate knowledge and ability, with their ceaseless efforts and contributions. Despite unusual and recurrent social problems, we would endeavor to promote rationality, to cultivate personality; to expand knowledge, etc. to study Chinese Scriptures is one of most practical way to go further. Currently, all Taiwanese divisions of the I-Kuan Tao have not only promoted the studying of Chinese Classics, but preserve the Chinese cultures, as well as to uphold the moral principles and ethics. This event indeed teamed up brilliant youths of Tao family from all over the world to participate in the general examination of Studying Chinese scriptures and to endeavor the religious duties and responsibilities. It is a meaningful and valuable event. We hope these youths can through studying the Chinese Scriptures awaken a heavenly virtue and revitalize a pleasant civilization. With this event, we sincerely wish it could develop a tradition of studying Chinese Scriptures, and bring real peace and happiness to the world.

Thank you to all divisions, masters, and seniors as well as youths of Tao family around the world for joining this event. My appreciation and gratitude to you all.

Best wishes to:

A perfect and successful event, physical and mental well-being, and delightful bliss and happiness.

# 永續志道據德依仁游藝 圓成人好家和國泰世平

中華民國一貫道總會王昆德理事長

一貫道世界總會理事長張老前人、副理事長陳大姑老前人、副理事長高老前人、各位長官貴賓、各位領導前人、各位海內外一貫道前賢大德，大家好。

今天我們一貫道全世界道親最重要的一天之一，我們來自世界五大洲各國專程齊聚台北，共同在這裡以最虔誠的生命禮敬，舉行世界老中青少萬人讀經大會考、園遊會暨音樂晚會，恭祝祖師 師尊 師母傳道一百週年，這是我們這一代一貫道弟子覺得最榮幸的大事之一。首先感恩 天恩師德的大慈大悲加被護持，感謝各組線老前人輩的犧牲奉獻栽培成全，各界長官貴賓的肯定支持，各國前賢大德的熱誠參與，圓滿成就了今天這個人天普慶的殊勝因緣。

一貫道的傳道源頭，在可追溯的人類歲月裡，可說是源於六千餘年前的中華古聖人伏羲氏。我們常聽聞的「一劃開天」，首創易經八卦就是稱揚伏羲氏，以彰明宇宙萬有生生不已的源頭，以開顯人類萬物共存共榮妙理，這個生生不已的源頭，共存共榮的妙理就是「道」。自伏羲氏以降，歷代聖王莫不以「道」來帶領百姓，教化萬民。直至孔孟諸聖，更直接肯定這個「道」，不只是行而上的天道天命天理，而且是很具體且人人不缺的良心善性倫常，從人的立場，把人做好，就可以在有限的人生，見證道不朽的天道天命。從這裡，人生的真實意義與無上價值，才能夠貞定得住，家庭的幸福，社會的安穩，國家的繁榮，世界的和平，也才能夠成為可能。而我們一貫道傳道的精神宗旨理念，乃是接緒自伏羲聖人以降，歷代聖王聖人之心法，並以「挽世界為清平，化人心為良善，暨世界為大同」為終極願景。這也是師尊老人在〈暫定佛規〉序文中所慈示：「先王之道，以正心修身為本。聖人之教，以禮門義路為先。」而歷代聖王聖人之心法的具體實踐，就在於從個人正心修身，行禮盡義開始，期望人人皆能明理修道，那麼人類永久和平繁榮才有可期。

近四百年，一貫道永緒不因地接續弘揚歷代聖人的心法，並且調適上遂地創建傳承天道天命的奧義。從黃德輝祖師到劉清虛祖師，隨順天十，建立了傳道的點章儀規。一百年前，路中一祖師奉命承緒祖師天命，而後相繼由師尊傳道師母肩挑傳道救世的天命重擔。一步一腳印的從山東濟寧、濟南到河北天津，普及全中國。六十年前又從台灣、香港，傳遍了全球五大洲七十五個國家以上。真的是地不分東西南北、冷熱良窳、都會鄉野，人不分膚色種族、老中青少、富貴貧賤，均有一貫道弟子開荒闢道的聖跡行誼，時時刻刻都有著天恩師德慈光普照，普令芸芸蒼生邁向光明的康莊大道。

近一百年來的一貫道傳道弘道歷程，可以說是聖聖相傳的慧命重現於現實。從祖師、師尊、師母繼往開來，以身示道，各組線老前人輩承先啟後，犧牲奉獻立定道範，如是以良心善性當家作主，以至誠第一向上提昇，創建了彌勒家園良性循環的重要基礎。不論多少荊棘坎坷，不論多少風霜血淚，均阻擾不了修辦道者的慈心慧願，才有今天世界性的一貫道道場。我們相信，這只是一個美好的開始而已，我們會堅定不已的永續精進，開荒闢道，修道立德，讓這百年所積聚的良性循環動力，不斷的強化，普令人人都能拳拳服膺這個良心善性的美好循環之動源，我們相信，我們今日的大聚會，就是以最具體的行動，來表明我們最大的決心與願力。

讀經讀心，活出人人與聖人不二的良心，不分老中青少，不分種族語言，我們發現生命原來有一個共同體，那就是明師跟我們指明的良心善性，原來各種不同語言的聖人經典，都是同盡一切苦心，來為我們說明這個良心善性，所以今天我們以世界萬人讀經會考，來表達我們恭祝祖師師尊師母傳道一百週年的感恩之心，也許諾我們永續志道據德依仁游藝。圓成人好家和國泰世平的堅定決心與長遠願力。我們也經由園遊會倡導喜樂素食養生健心的仁風美行，從日用倫常的尊重生命、珍惜因緣，真正做到「親親、仁民、愛物」共生共好共榮的一貫道彌勒家園美好生活。最後，以最祥和感人肺腑的音樂晚會表演，來通透一切生命，讓我們融入「文以載道」、「藝以載道」的和諧和平合好之大同境界，激勵人人合德同心，盡心盡力，圓滿成就彌勒家園在人間，共同成就人類永久和平繁榮。

最後，在這裡謹代表中華民國一貫道總會歡迎各界長官貴賓，各國一貫道前賢大德親臨大會，相信今天的相聚，是我們一貫道邁向新世紀，開拓欣欣向榮的道務，最好的啟動力量，我們希望彼此相互祝福鼓勵。在天恩師德的慈光護佑下，在各位老前人、前人、點傳師的慈悲成全下，合德同心為一貫道傳道宗旨的實現，盡到最大的努力。謹再一次祝福大家身心平安健康，道務慧命永昌。謝謝大家。

**Carry on Our Tao Will and Behave Ourselves  
according to Our Conscience  
Cultivate Ourselves, Harmonize Our Families and  
Help Accomplish a Flourished Country and a Peaceful World**

President Kun-te Wang  
The Republic of China I-Kuan Tao Association

World I-Kuan Tao Headquarter president Senior Master Chang, vice-president Senior Mistress Chen, vice-president Senior Master Kao, officers, all leading masters, ladies, gentlemen:

For all the Tao-cultivators around the world, today is the most important day. Today, Tao-cultivators from different continents of the world, with their highest honor and sincerity, meet together here in Taipei. With the Great Scholar Contest, the garden party and the musical concert, we commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Tao's propagation anniversary from the 17<sup>th</sup> Patriarch, Great Master and Great Mistress. This is one of the most honorable events for all the Tao-cultivators in our generation nowadays. First, let us thank heaven's grace, our teacher's good deeds and the merciful protection and blessing from the gods above. Besides, let us also appreciate the sacrifice and efforts of all the senior masters, the support and encouragement from the governmental officers, and the participation of all of you in this great event. All of these help contribute this special opportunity of the celebration between gods above and human beings today.

In the human history records, the origin of Tao's propagation can be traced back to the ancient Fu-xi saint. We always hear of "One stroke separated the heaven and earth" and the "Great creation of I-Ching Eight Divine Patterns." These phrases are to praise our Fu-xi saint, who pointed out the constant origin of every being and the mystical way of coexistence of every being in the universe. This constant origin and mystical way of coexistence is "Tao." Since the Fu-xi saint, all the great emperors never lead and taught his people without "Tao". Till the Confucius saint and the Mencius saint, "Tao" was directly approved as not only the transcendent order of heaven, the Heavenly Decree, but also as the concrete conscience, the goodness, and the ethics on each human being. In the position of human being, if one can carry out his life in a good way, he can experience and prove the never decayed "Tao", the Heavenly Decree, in his limited lifetime. From this point of view, the real meaning and the utmost value of the human life can be held constantly, which then further makes the happy family, the solid society, the flourish country and the peaceful world possible. The principle of the Tao-propagation is to continue the Heart Dharma from the Fu-xi saint and the historical great emperors and saints, wishing "To transform the world into a peaceful, honest, and orderly society, to enlighten the minds of people and enable them to return to a state of benevolence and, by pursuing this path, to bring the world into a state of equality, fraternity, harmony, welfare, and justice – the World of Da-Tong" as our aim. This is also one part of our Great Master's advices in the forewords of the book "Extemporaneous Buddha Rules": "The Tao of the ancient emperors was based on rectifying their hearts and cultivating their bodies. The teaching of the great saints was started by propriety and righteousness." Thus, we understand that the fulfillment of the Heart Dharma of the ancient great emperors and saints was located on the personal cultivation of heart and body and was

started from carrying out the propriety and righteousness in their lives. Let us realize the real meaning of Tao and cultivate ourselves. The forever peace of human being is then expectable.

Since the past 400 years, I-Kuan Tao has been continually propagating the Heart Dharma from the ancient saints and clarifying the mystical meanings of the Great Tao according to the time. From the Patriarch Huang De-hui to the Patriarch Liu Qing-xu, rules of Tao-transmitting had been systematically set up. 100 years ago, Patriarch Lu Zhong-yi became the 17<sup>th</sup> Patriarch and was followed by our Great Master and Great Mistress. Our Great Master and Great Mistress received the special heavenly decree of world salvation through transmitting and propagating Tao. Thus, Tao was then spread from Shan-Dong province to He-Bei province and then prevailed step by step to the whole China. Since 60 years ago, Tao has been spread from Taiwan, Hong Kong and prevailed in more than 75 countries in the world. Propagation of I-Kuan Tao can really be found in different kinds of areas, no matter in the east, west, south or north, no matter in the country or in the city center, no matter in the humid areas or in the rainless areas. And Tao cultivators can also be met in different kinds of human races, no matter they are seniors or juniors, rich or poor. In every place and at every moment, blessings from the heaven above, grace of the patriarchs always lead the human beings in the world to a enlightening broad way.

The transmitting and propagation of I-Kuan Tao in the past 100 years could be seen as the recurrence of the Heavenly Decree, which previously was transmitted from one single saint to another, into the reality of normal human being's life. The 17<sup>th</sup> Patriarch, our Great Master and Great Mistress took over the heavenly kismet and carried out the Tao on their own. And then the senior masters of every I-Kuan Tao groups followed them to civilize and awake their next generations by sacrificing themselves and thus built up the ideals of Tao cultivation. Their behaviors with the guidance of their own conscience and their upgrade with their sincere honesty have become very importance basements for the benign cycling power inside the peaceful world. No matter how many kinds of difficulties and sufferings, the mercy and strong will of the Tao cultivators to spread and propagate the Tao had never been hindered, which created the I-Kuan Tao court worldwide nowadays. We believe that this is only a good beginning. We will keep going forwards without any hesitation, keep spreading and propagating the Tao, keep cultivating ourselves and doing merits, in order to go on strengthening the benign power collected from the past hundred years and help everyone keep this benign cycling power inside them. We believe, the meeting today is the most concrete action to show our utmost sincerity and will toward the effects above.

Reading the scriptures of the saints is to read our hearts and to lead a life based on the conscience in everyone that doesn't differ from the ancient saints. We discovered that, no matter at which age, in which kind of races or languages, all kinds of life has a commonality. That is the conscience, the self-nature which the enlightening master pointed out to us. We found out that, in all kinds of scriptures of the saints, although they are in different languages, the efforts to point out the conscience, the self-nature inside ourselves are the same. The Great Scholar Contest today is not only to present our thanksgiving to the 100 year Tao's propagation anniversary from the 17<sup>th</sup> Patriarch, Great Master and Great Mistress, but also to promise us the strong determination and the long-term wish that we will keep carrying on our Tao will and behave ourselves according to our conscience and that we will cultivate ourselves, harmonize our families and help accomplish a flourished country and a peaceful world. Besides, through the

garden party, we advocate the health caring and merciful deeds by being vegetarians delightfully. With this activity, we learn to respect all lives and to cherish different relationships in our daily life. Based on this, we wish to reach the goal of a beautiful and peaceful coexistence with every life in the world, where “people’s virtues are illustrated, people are loved, and all things are taken care of”. At the last, with peaceful and touching musical concert, we try to recognize all life. Let us enjoy the music and join in the harmonized and peaceful world of Tao, since “Tao carried by the literature and Tao is carried by the art.” All of us here are to be encouraged to try our best to help build up a heaven in the mortal world of human and to achieve the forever peace and glory of human beings in the world.

At the last, the Republic of China I-Kuan Tao Association is very pleasant to welcome all the officers, guests, and the seniors and peers of all I-Kuan Tao organizations from every countries. We believe, today’s meeting is the best starting power that will certainly lead to a new era and a blooming period of I-Kuan Tao in the world. Let us make wishes and encouragements to each other. Under the blessings of God and teachers and with the mercy from every senior master and enlightening master, let us work together and make our greatest efforts on accomplishing the purposes of propagating I-Kuan Tao. I wish everyone health and peace, and every I-Kuan Tao organization prosperity. Thank you very much!