

PREFACE

THE PRESENT BOOK IS A primer for translating Daoist (Taoist) literature. It is the first such book and the first bilingual Daoist sourcebook. In addition to a robust introduction that discusses Daoist literature and translation, it contains twenty-eight “lessons” from a wide variety of Daoist texts with accompanying, supplemental materials. Each selection includes a brief contextual and framing introduction that includes essential information on the text in question and the relevant linguistic dimensions for developing fuller translation facility. The latter includes lesson-specific classical Chinese grammar and Daoist vocabulary. Derived from most of the major periods and movements of Daoist history, the selections cover alchemy, dietetics, ethics, health and longevity practice, hermeneutics, meditation, monasticism, principles, view, and so forth. While primarily intended for individuals interested in reading Chinese Daoist primary texts in the original, it also may be used to develop bilingual engagement with Daoism and as a sourcebook of Daoist literature. In the process, *Primer for Translating Daoist Literature* offers not only a new model for Daoist Studies, but also the aspirational possibility of “Daoist translation.” It envisions a Daoist scholar-practitioner approach (SPA) and study-practice model (SPM), including one rooted in critical adherent discourse (CAD). This is study informed by practice, and practice informed by study, including translation work potentially inspired by and infused with Daoist commitments, principles, qualities, and values.