



TAOISM

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Chang Tao-Ling's genealogical line and the bloodline stemming from Confucius are the only two family trees in the history of China that link their clan members across more than one thousand years. Both families are valued as great assets within the traditional Chinese culture.

The Taoist lineage counts already almost two thousand years. The Chang clan genealogy stems from the Han dynasty Celestial Master Chang Tao-Ling, who founded the Celestial Masters' Daoist religious movement. His direct descendant Chang-Ei-Chang currently performs the role of the XLV Celestial Master in Taiwan.

Two Thousand Years of the Taoist Religion: Taoist Lineage After Transferring to Taiwan Continue to Flourish

Taoism as a religion began at the end of the Eastern Han dynasty. The founder, Chang Tao-Ling, is the first Celestial Master and the eighth-generation descendant of Zhang Liang, a skilled Chinese military strategist from the early Western Han dynasty.

According to Taoist history records, in the Han'An era, during the reign of the Shun emperor (142 CE), while undergoing spiritual training on the top of the Heming mountain in today's Sichuan, Chang Tao-Ling was visited by the Most High Lord Lao. The deity bestowed upon him the sacred register, the Yin-Yang swords that expel evil spirits, and the Seal of the Head of the Yangtai Region. The Most High Lord Lao referred to him as the "Celestial Master" and commanded him to differentiate humans from demons, subdue malicious spirits and exorcise evil.

Because the Ancestral Celestial Master Chang Tao-Ling was also responsible for performing the official rituals, the common name for the altar built during the Taoist *zhai-jiao* ceremony is (the Celestial) Master's Altar.

Today, the Taoist school formed by Chang Tao-Ling is called The Way of Celestial Masters *Tianshi dao* or Orthodox Unity *Zhengyi*. Before, it was commonly known as The Way of Five



Pecks of Rice *Wudoumi dao* because all new members were required to offer five pecks of rice as a sacrifice for the deities living in the Five Dipper Constellations.

The Celestial Masters were renowned for their skills in Taoist secret talisman writing. Therefore, the movement has also been called the School of Talismans. Celestial Master's Taoist tradition has been passed down unceasingly from generation to generation. Today, the LXV Celestial Master Chang Ei-Chang is the head of the *Zhengyi* Taoist movement.

The IV Celestial Master Chang Sheng left the birthplace of *Zhengyi* Taoism - the Shu kingdom located in today's Sichuan province and established new headquarters for the movement at the mount Long-Hu situated in today's Jiangxi province. In 1949, the LXIII Celestial Master Chang En-Pu left the continent with the National Government and came to Taiwan. That is why the Celestial Master's lineage continues to grow in Chinese Republic of Taiwan. The Long-Hu mountain in Jiangxi lost its religious and representative function and became a popular tourist spot.

In 2009 Chang Ei-Chang assumed the post of Celestial Master LXV and founded the Han Chinese Hereditary Taoist Association of Celestial Masters with its headquarters in Taipei City. In 2012 he built a Taoist Educational Center in the Fenyuan Township in Changhua County. In 2014 he officially enshrined a sacred figure of the Ancestral Celestial Master in the temple within the center's compounds. In 2021 the Association's official name was changed to Han Chinese Hereditary Orthodox Unity Taoist Association (in short: Taoist Association).

You can support us by sending donations via postal service :

- Account name : **The Taoist Association of Celestial Master Chang**
- Account number : **50237084**
- Transaction description: **"Contribution to the popularization of Taoism" or other more specific areas where you want to support our service**

Please remember to fill in your phone number, in case we need to contact you.

Three main service areas of the Taoist Association: Religion, Culture and Education, Charity

The *Zhengyi* Taoist Association, under the guidance of the LXV Celestial Master Chang Ei-Chang, is devoted to popularizing the Taoist spirit and tradition. Following the example given by the Ancestral Celestial Master Chang, we help and support those in need. Our service is carried out in three main spheres: religion, education, and charity.



Religion

- ※We pray for blessings for the country and the people
- ※We help Taoist masters and priests receive their official ordinations
- ※We organize the sacred space for ceremonies and rituals
- ※We hold four main annual festivals: Upper, Middle, and Lower Primordial Festival and Great Ceremony Ensuring Luck
- ※We organize the „Reverting destiny and opening luck" ritual
- ※We held the ceremony for the Ancestral Celestial Master's Birthday (the 18th Day of the fifth lunar month)
- ※We write and imprint sacred talismans
- ※We provide believers seeking guidance in peo divination with handwritten divinations

Research/Culture/Education

- ※We support the academic research on Taoism
- ※We hold Taoist classes on various topics at the following universities in Taiwan: Kaohsiung Normal University, Tai'an University, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University
- ※We organize online courses on Taoism
- ※We give guest lectures at universities and other educational institutions
- ※We attain cultural activities connected with Taoism
- ※We hand out scholarships for filial children from low-income families every year
- ※We prepare written materials promoting Taoist culture
- ※We edit and print Taoist classical books and other historical materials
- ※We compose, edit and publish the Taoist Association's annual journal (with a precise Lunar Calendar for the following year)

Charity

- ※We offer free service for people with low incomes who cannot afford funeral rites
- ※We help the most impoverished to meet their basic needs
- ※We help victims of natural disasters (depending on the situation)
- ※We support orphanages (in preparation)



Official Website of the Taoist Association

Celestial Master leads the promotion of Taoism overseas

Since the beginning of his mandate as the head of Zhengyi Taoism, Celestial Master Chang Ei-Chang spares no effort to fulfill his duties by :

- ✧ Organizing and presiding over conversion ceremonies for devotees
- ✧ Organizing and presiding over ordination ceremonies, during which the priests from different Taoist schools can receive sacred registers
- ✧ Performing the *jiao* ritual for various temples
- ✧ Praying for peace in the country and the well-being of the citizens
- ✧ Promoting Taoism overseas
- ✧ Giving guest lectures in schools, universities, and other educational institutions
- ✧ Organizing in-class and online courses on Taoism



Celestial Master Chang assists the Taoist priests and masters by recommending their religious service in front of the deities. After the ceremony, they receive the sacred registers and the official certificate of the "Ancestor Altar of Ten Thousand Laws," which makes them ready to serve the people and enact justice on behalf of Heaven.



Celestial Master Chang promoting Taoism overseas

Not sparing any efforts to popularize Taoism: propagation of the Taoist ethics through filial behavior scholarships

For most Han Chinese and people from various minorities living in China and Taiwan, Taoism is perceived as a type of folk religion tightly connected with the social sphere of life. Moreover, Taoism is the only Chinese religion that stems from the lowest sphere of society. Even if it has already experienced

two thousand years of development, Taoism is still very closely connected to the culture of the Han people.

Today, our modern way of life is strongly Westernized. More and more people disregard the value of traditional culture and moral norms. Taoism has always shown a deep respect for conventional family values. It was believed that the cultivation of the Way of the Tao starts from the cultivation of the Way of the Human. In other words, one can improve the world by starting from a smaller circle of their closest family, then expanding to a bigger circle of the whole nation. That is why respecting others and repaying for their kindness, worshipping the ancestors, and keeping filial obedience to one's elders are necessary moral attitudes valued by Taoist Association.

We established "Scholarship Supporting Filial Behavior" to reward well-behaved children from low-income families showing exceptional attitudes towards their elders. We want to encourage the younger generation to act in a morally good way and to awaken once more the social importance placed on the virtue of filial piety. We hope that more and more families will learn how to live in harmony and contribute to creating a more peaceful society.

Celestial Master Chang receives invitations from many universities to give lectures. He is also actively engaged in creating on-site and online courses for devotees. He wishes to propagate values of traditional Chinese culture and introduce the orthodox Taoist tradition to people from all walks of life.



Supporting Filial Behaviour Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Holding onto philanthropic tradition by devoting his service to benefit society and help the people: funeral expenses subsidies officially praised

The Way of Celestial Masters was established by the end of the Eastern Han dynasty. Due to the war chaos and natural calamities, many became destitute and homeless. Adherence to traditional values like love and kindness propagated by *the Classic of Way and Virtue Dao De Jing* was seen by the Celestial Masters as the key to universal salvation.

By holding onto the early Celestial Master's tradition of social aid, the LXV Celestial Master Chang Ei-Chang devoted himself to public welfare. Whether someone faces a big-scale misfortune or just a daily struggle, Celestial Master Chang is always eager to help, putting into practice his religious beliefs. Taoist Association brought necessary aid to people suffering from the 2009 flood in Taiwan, the 2011 Tohoku earthquake in Japan, the 2014 Kaohsiung gas explosions, the 2015 TransAsia Airways Flight 235 tragedy, the 2016 southern Taiwan earthquake, and the 2019 COVID-19 pandemic.

A ritual of hurling a plate with plague suppressing talisman preventing the spread of COVID-19



Additionally, the Taoist Association regularly provides funeral rites subsidies to low-income families that do not have enough money to say goodbye to their deceased loved ones. The Taiwanese state officially recognized and praised the funeral rites subsidies program in 2012. Many villages and townships are grateful for the help provided by the Taoist Association.



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