

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In the received editions, the *Laozi* says, “Many words lead to an early misery.” This passage appears differently in this book because the Mawangdui texts, the base texts of my translation, contain a different wording. I would like to cite it here, however, because my foremost acknowledgements go to the invaluable accomplishments of the studies on the traditional *Laozi*. The classic texts, the ancient commentaries, and the historical researches of the *Laozi* were my true companions through the long course of this project. I cite the passage also because I respect and follow its teaching at least here in the acknowledgments: I used many words for my interpretation of this poetic classic. Notwithstanding, I need to engrave the names of supporters on this book, without whom this book would not have come out. I have always been grateful for their help: to my editors, Nancy Clough and Rachel Moore Jenkins, for their meticulous proofreading; to my colleagues Sung Bae Park, Sichun Kim, Gregory Ruf, and Chris Filstrup for their reading of and invaluable advice on my manuscript; to the unknown reviewers of my manuscript for their productive comments; to the Center for Korean Studies at SUNY at Stony Brook for both tangible and intangible supports; to Nancy Ellegate and Eileen Meehan from the SUNY Press for their incalculable help; and to my family for being with me all the time.