

FOREWORD

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THE ZHUANGZI IS ONE OF MY MOST BELOVED TEXTS. IT IS an abundantly rich resource for reflecting on nature, the human world, and spirituality. History has given us many different interpretations of the Zhuangzi, and yet its philosophy can never be exhaustively explicated. With today's convergence of cultures and increasing communication among world traditions, it is natural that scholars from around the world should come to esteem this great book of Daoism.

I have known Hans-Georg Moeller for a long time and appreciate his work on the Laozi. I am delighted to find him working on another Daoist text. I have come to know his student Paul D'Ambrosio as well, with whom I have had many pleasurable exchanges on Nietzsche, Zhuangzi, and other philosophers. Their work on "genuine pretending" is an inspired new take on the Zhuangzi and engages in comparative philosophy on the highest level.

Scholars today need to be steeped in the philosophy, language, culture, and history of more than one tradition in order to make significant contributions

in philosophy. Genuine pretending is a perfect example of how cross-cultural philosophy can develop valuable new perspectives on the history of philosophy, society, and human spirituality. It shows how Zhuangzi's freedom occurs at the core of our daily lives, and how it is accessible even in its most mundane aspects.

Truly, Zhuangzi's writing is characterized by humor. Scholars have often noted this fact, but few have undertaken serious philosophical investigations into the implications of it. The reflections on humor developed in this work bring to light important aspects of Zhuangzi's teachings.

I am delighted to invite readers to join on this path of reading the Zhuangzi!