

**“道教节”我们的大日子 - 为何要有世界庆典?  
WHY a need to have worldwide celebration for  
our special day “TAOIST DAY”?**

by

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This paper comes from my personal observation and own perspective in my humble journey of learning, practicing and understanding of the Tao and Taoism in a cosmopolitan city, Singapore.

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**Worldwide celebrations are now a common platform for putting across new wave of trends, commemoration of significant days, and observance of noted festivals. Regardless of its size and participation, this platform involves people from different walks of lives, cultures and ethnic backgrounds. The bottom line to all these is to establish friendship, integration and better world to live in.**

当前,世界庆典成为传播新趋势、颂扬和纪念重要日子及重大节日的一个共享平台。不论规模大小及参与程度,本平台包括来自各行业、不同文化及种族背景的人们。所有这些参与者的宗旨在于建立并居住于一个充满友谊、一体化的更美好世界。

## 1) WHAT IS “TAOIST DAY”?

### 1) 什么是“道教节”？

Taoist Day, known as 道教节 in Chinese is the celebration of the feast day of our Supreme Patriarch, Tai Shang Lao Jun, also known as Lao Zi. According to Taoist records, Lao Zi is born on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of 2<sup>nd</sup> lunar month in the Year Wu Ding, during the Shang Dynasty. Since the formation of the Taoist religious movement under the leadership of Celestial Master Zhang Dao Ling, Taoism has honoured Lao Zi as incarnation of Tao.

道教节是颂扬和纪念至尊长者——太上老君（即老子）的节日。据道教记载，老子生于商朝武丁年农历二月十五日。由天师张道陵领导的道教运动兴起后，道教尊崇老子为道的化身。

Throughout the history of China, the feast day of Lao Zi had been celebrated under various festival names. In Tang Dynasty, it was known as “玄元节, 降圣节”. In Song Dynasty, it was known as “真元节, 贞元节”. It was declared as a public holiday by the Emperors.

纵观中国历史，老子的节日已贯穿于多个节日名称中。唐朝的“玄元节、降圣节”和宋朝的“真元节、贞元节”，都被皇帝宣告为公共假期。

## 2) CELEBRATING “TAOIST DAY”

### 2) 颂扬“道教节”

Why does Taoism celebrate feast days of deities? Feast days are usually known as “birthdays” (诞辰) of deities in the Chinese culture. Although some deities were mortal beings who attained immortality and hence have “birthdates”, a great number of deities are divinities from the Tai Chi Realm and the nature world. In theory, the Divine do not have a “birthday”, but a special date is set aside so that followers and devotees can accord respect to the Divine in the same manner the children would accord respect to their parents or seniors in the family. Acts of such bring home the message of universal virtues i.e. filial, kindness and integrity.

为什么道教庆祝神明的节日呢？中国文化中，节日通常被称作神的“诞辰”。尽管部分神明来自芸芸众生修炼成仙，实现永恒故有“生日”，大多数神明为来自太极界和自然界的神灵。理论上，神明没有“诞辰”，但是设立一个特别的日子以便追随者和信徒能像孩子尊敬父母或家族长辈那样向神明表达敬意。如此行为为家庭带来普遍美德，即孝顺、善良和正直。

Taoism celebrates many different festivals. Some are festivals closely associated with the Chinese culture. Some are feast days of deities. TAOIST DAY is different because it is dedicated to our Supreme Patriarch, Lord of Most High, Lao Zi and his

teachings for mortal beings. Taoist Day cuts across the racial division as it belongs to Taoists of different races and origins; Taoists who are philosophical, Taoists who are devotional, Taoists who are into self-cultivation, Taoists of various lineages should celebrate such a festival as Taoism takes its name from Tao as espoused by Lao Zi.

道教庆祝许多不同节日，其中一些节日与中国文化密切相关，一些是神明的诞日。道教节的不同之处在于它是专门纪念至高尊者、至高无上的圣主——太上老子及其为芸芸众生所传授教义的节日。道教节属于来自不同种族和国籍的道教徒，因此它超越种族分别。来自不同派系、修练和虔诚的道教徒应该庆祝这样一个节日，因为道教一词形成于老子所说的道。

### **3) CELEBRATING THE “TAOIST IDENTITY”**

#### **3) 颂扬“道徒身份认同”**

**Besides those living in China or Chinese communities, most are at a loss when and how to connect to the Tao family and what it takes to be identified as a Taoist? Awareness is fundamental as it gives a sense of belonging, realizing the wellsprings of one’s heritage and the bonding with fellow Taoist brothers.**

除了生活于中国或华人社区的信徒，多数人不知道何时及以何种方式与道教家庭接轨和认同，不知道成为一个信徒所要求的条件。意识是根本，因为它给予人们一种归属感，使其认识继承的来由并加入道内兄弟的大家庭。

**Without deep understanding of the Chinese culture, and much less the Tao culture, these devoted practitioners diligently on their own learn the teachings of Taoism through modern mass communications. Owing to limited financial resources, most of them are unable to make frequent studies or pilgrim trips to China. However, they have the perseverance to influence and impart Tao knowledge to the people in their communities.**

这些虔诚的践行者，对中国文化了解较少而且对道文化了解更少，他们借助现代大众传播媒介，独自、勤勉地学习道教教义。由于财政资源有限，多数践行者未能频繁前往中国进行研究或朝圣。但是，他们凭着一颗道心持之以恒地影响并为所在社区的人们传授道教知识。

**Regardless of which corner of the world, Tao practitioners or learners at the mention of TAOIST DAY, they can immediately identify the connection with Supreme Venerable Lao Zi or even Tao Te Ching. Tao Te Ching is one of the most translated texts in the world. There is probably someone out there discovering the wisdom found in Tao Te Ching every moment.**

无论世界哪个地方，一提及道教节，道教徒们或学习者会立刻将自己与至尊老子或甚至是《道德经》联系起来。《道德经》是世界上拥有翻译文本最多的文本之一，每时每刻都可能有人领会到《道德经》中所蕴含的智慧。

**Proudly and devotedly, when one says “I am a Taoist, TAOIST DAY is a SPECIAL DAY for me!” the first figure that comes to mind will be our Lord Lao Zi. Hence, it is only apt to term Lao Zi’s feast day as Taoist Day and (serves as ) a platform to connect Taoists worldwide. It is a (Universal Path) for all.**

当某人自豪、虔诚地说：“我是道教徒，道教节是我的大日子”时，出现在我们脑海中的 人物形象将是我们的圣主——道祖老子。因此，我们要把道祖老子的诞日定义为道教节，并做为连接世界各地道教徒的一个平台。对所有道教徒来说，它已成为一个共同途径 - 道行天下。

#### **4) CELEBRATING A UNIVERSAL PATH IN SPONTANEOUS (无为) PEACE BUILDING** **4) 颂扬以无为心构建和平的共同途径**

**It is an expression of devotion on the part of the followers. From the religious point of view, it is a simple way of imparting propriety to followers and devotees. (神道设教) Tai Shang Lao Jun is also known as Tai Qing Dao De Tian Zun (太清道德天尊) in the Trinity of the Three Pure Ones. He is the Teacher, the Mentor, the Master (师宝). In the Praise of Tai Qing (太清宝诰), Tai Shang Lao Jun is said to take on various names and personalities to spread the teachings of Tao and establish of the Tao of Heaven, the Tao of Earth and the Tao of Mortal Beings (假名易号, 立天之道, 地之道, 人之道). The essence of his teachings to mortal beings is contained in the five-thousand word text of Tao and Virtue (着道德凡五千言), which is also known as Tao Te Ching (道德经). Hence, celebrating the feast day of Lao Zi is also about celebrating his teachings on Tao.**

这是信众表达虔诚的一种方式。从宗教层面上来说，这是向信众和皈依者传授行为规范的一种简单方法，即所谓神道设教。太上老君即是三清道祖中之太清道德天尊，祂即是老师、度师也是师宝。《太清宝诰》中说：太上老君假名易号，传播道的教义、立天之道，地之道，人之道。人之道教义的精华包含于道德凡五千言，即《道德经》。因此，庆祝道祖老子诞日即颂扬祂关于道的教义。

**The sage Lao Zi mentioned the Three Treasures (三宝) “compassion”, “frugality” and “humility” in chapter 67 of Tao Te Ching (慈, 俭, 不敢为天下先). He also talked about spontaneity in many chapters of the classic text. Such virtues are universal values which are beneficial and worthy to be propagated worldwide. One of the main objectives of the worldwide celebration is to spread such teachings to every corner of the world.**

道祖老子在《道德经》第 67 章中提到三宝，即“慈、俭和不敢为天下先”。祂在本经典著作的许多章节中同样讨论了无为思想。此类美德具有普世价值观，它有意义和价值在世界范围内传播。世界庆典的主要目标之一是向世界各个角落传播此类教义。

**One foremost approach for an individual to contribute to this cosmic order of harmony is to overcome the concept of SELF. With the comprehension of this, one can then sincerely work on harmony with the fellow men, and also with a profound inner awareness of deep connections with all forms of life. Here is a constant reminder by venerable Lao Zi:**

个人促成和谐宇宙秩序的一个最重要方法是克服“自我”的观念。认识到这一点，便能深刻地认识到与所有生命形式的深入联系，并与同胞和谐共存、真诚地在一起工作。下面是至尊老子亘古不变的提示：

**TaoTe Ching Chapter 8:**

***The top virtue should be like water;***

***It is gentle, resides in lower places and it nourishes rather than rivals with everything.***

**《道德经》第八章**

上善若水。水善利万物而不争，处众人之所恶，故几于道。

**The Taoist views humility with high esteem which entails every individual's higher level of consciousness to see oneself as a channel towards the end goal of harmony creation and sustenance. When one yields and integrates with others, it is the minimum condition for harmony. Harmony simply cannot exist in the absence of peace from an individual as he or she will be interconnected conceptually with others.**

道教徒高度推崇不敢为天下先的谦卑。不敢为天下先限定每个个人较高层次的意识，本意识视个人自己为达到和创造及维持这一终极目标的一个途径。当作出让步并与其它人结合时，这是实现和谐的最低要求。若个人缺乏和平，和谐便无法简单地存在，因为从概念上讲，他或她将与他人联系而不是单独行动。

**5) CELEBRATING WORLDWIDE CELEBRATIONS**

**5) 颂扬世界庆典**

**Taoism is the indigenous faith of China, and is now no longer restricted only to China. In recent years, not only philosophical but religious Taoism have slowly and quietly touch many lives of those living outside China. Nowadays one can find Tao practitioners in a remote town Caserta in Italy, Canary Islands in Spain, grape valley in Portugal, sea port Semarang in Indonesia, city Los Angeles in USA, hillside**



retreat in Hanoi Vietnam, distant place in Costa Rica, the mountain climbing tourist resort Kota Kinabalu in East Malaysia, and many more others.

道教是中国固有的信仰，当今，道教不再仅限于中国。近年来，不仅是哲学道教，而且是宗教道教已慢慢、悄无声息地影响许多生活于中国之外的人们。如今，你会发现道践行者遍布意大利偏僻的卡塞塔省内小镇，西班牙的加那利群岛，葡萄牙的一个生产葡萄的山谷里、印度尼西亚三宝瓏的小海港、美国的洛杉矶市、越南河内的山林村庄、哥斯达黎加的一个偏僻地方、东马来西亚沙巴州亚庇市的一个登山旅游度假区和其它很多地方。

**More importantly, making spiritual connection through pilgrimage to the Native Place of Dao Zu Lao Zi and Taoist sacred grounds is the main focal point. It serves to remind people to reflect upon the teachings of Tao and inspire pilgrims to a greater awareness level of Tao and Virtue. Although Taoists have been striving for official recognition for this special day as a public holiday, it is very important that Taoists gather to rejoice and reflect on this special occasion.**

更为重要的是，通过前往道祖老子故里及道教圣地朝圣，以达到心灵上的连接是重点中之焦点。它提醒人们反思道之教义，激励朝圣者实现对道和德较高层次的认识。尽管道教徒竭力争取官方对这一大日子作为一个公共假期的认可，更重要的是道教徒集体欢庆并反思的一个特别大日子。

**The organizers of ‘TAOIST DAY WORLDWIDE CELEBRATION’ has brought the festival onto the international platform over the past three years since its launch in 2011!**

自 2011 年发起至今的三年间，“道教节世界庆典”的主办方已将这一节日推向国际平台。

**The objectives are clear and simple: 其宗旨明确、简单:**

**1. To unite Taoists around the world to recognize and celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> lunar month as “Taoist Day” – the Supreme Revered Day of Tai Shang Lao Jun (Lao Zi).**

一. 团结全世界道教徒认同“道教节”，于此二月十五“道教节”大日子共同欢庆道祖太上老君（老子）圣诞。

**2. To encourage Taoists around the world to make annual pilgrimage on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> lunar month to the Taoist sacred ground/Lao Zi’s native place.**

二. 鼓励全世界道教徒定期于每年二月十五齐聚道教圣地 / 老子故里“朝圣”。

**3. To proliferate and promote the teachings of Lao Zi in the Tao Te Ching to the world.**

三. 把道祖老子《道德经》教诲传播至全世界，教化众生，德化万物。

**4. To propagate Taoism worldwide and strive towards achieving the goal of having “Taoist Day” gazette as a public holiday.**

四. 弘扬道教至全世界，争取“道教节”有朝一日被公认成为法定假日。

**In addition to event protocols at Celebrations, the hosts make painstaking efforts to present interactive exhibitions, prints and media to provide and instill deeper insight on Tao and Taoism. This not only benefit the overseas and local Celebration attendees but also to the community at large. Messages of peace and harmony are often highlighted to inspire innate goodness to nourish the spirit and cultivate benevolence in thoughts and action not only to oneself but to the family and society.**

除了庆典的大事方案，主办方费尽心血地呈现互动展览、出版物和媒介以便为人们提供并传授道和道教更深层次的顿悟。这不仅有益于海外和当地地方庆典参与者，而且有益于整个社会。强调和平与和谐的观点，激发天生的善良之心，培养精神，培养对自己及家人和社会的善心（思想方面和行动方面）。

**Forums, dialogues and exchanges at Worldwide Celebrations deliver open and noteworthy communication on how Taoists from different countries share and promote the peace movement. Good practices can be brought home, and improper practices can be identified or improved upon.**

世界庆典的论坛、对话和交流传递来自不同国家的道教徒如何分享和促进和平运动的公开、意义深远的交流信息。引进良好践行方法，识别或改善不良践行方法。

**This year’s 2013 Worldwide Celebration in March saw a gathering of Taoists from Italy, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Korea, Hong Kong, Macau and Singapore coming together contributing, sharing and receiving experiences, challenges and concerns in their missions. The international platform provided an avenue to establish strong alliance and fellowship to foster peace and harmony through the wisdom in Tao Te Ching and other Taoism scriptures.**

今年 3 月举办的 2013 世界庆典聚集来自意大利、台湾、马来西亚、越南、中国、韩国、香港、澳门和新加坡的道教徒，他们贡献和分享经验、接受挑战和了解其使命关注的问题。该国际平台提供途径借助《道德经》和其它道教经书，以建立强大联盟和团队来促进和平及和谐。

## 6) CELEBRATING PEACE AND HARMONY

### 6) 颂扬和平及和谐

Let's walk the Earth with Tao, and on every TAOIST DAY, may Taoists be spiritually connected and resonated globally and communally in ONE SOUL, ONE HEART AND ONE PEACE. Every single effort for peace building is precious; every person has the chance to fill our mother Earth with eternal happiness and harmony!

愿“道通天地”，让我们以“道行天下”。道教徒可在道教节之日实现精神和心灵上的联系，达到全球社区内一心一意一和的共鸣。构建和平的每一份努力都是宝贵的，每个人都有向大地母亲填补永恒快乐与和谐的机会！

**May Heavenly Blessings Be With You 福生无量天尊**

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## ANNEX 附录:

### TAOIST DAY CELEBRATION 道教节庆典

In 于

- 1996 – Singapore, Taoist Mission started TAOIST DAY Celebration on their founding year to serve the weak Taoist community in Singapore. Fellow Taoists from Malaysia and Hong Kong gave their heartening involvement to stage the celebration. Singapore continues to mark this special day annually.
- 1996 年——新加坡道教协会于成立当年发起道教节庆典活动，服务于弱势的新加坡道教社团。马来西亚和香港的道教徒同胞们热切地参与庆典和策划活动。新加坡每年都不间断地欢庆这一大日子。
- 1997 – Malaysia marked their first TAOIST DAY with strong encouragement from Hong Kong and Singapore.
- 1997 年——在香港和新加坡的大力鼓励下，马来西亚举办了首次首届道教节纪念活动。
- 2001 – Hong Kong presented their first TAOIST DAY after giving support to Singapore for the past five years.
- 2001 年——在连续五年支持新加坡活动后，香港首次举办了道教节。
- 2009 – Indonesia Semarang boldly partnered with Singapore to launch a Transnational TAOIST DAY Joint Celebration.
- 2009 年——印度尼西亚的三宝壟以无畏的精神与新加坡合作举办道教节跨国联合庆典。
- 2010 – East Malaysia Sabah saw the works of Singapore & Indonesia, and decided to render support to the great effort. Sabah delivered their 1<sup>st</sup> TAOIST DAY and hosted the transnational joint celebration with Singapore and Indonesia.
- 2010 年——东马来西亚沙巴目睹新加坡和印度尼西亚的创举，决定竭尽全力给予支持。沙巴与新加坡和印度尼西亚联合举办了跨国道教节庆典。这也是首届沙巴道教节庆典的举办。

### TAOIST DAY WORLDWIDE CELEBRATION 道教节世界庆典

In 于

- 2011 – Italy Caserta strongly believed in the praiseworthy initiative, and gladly joined Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia to initiate the TAOIST DAY WORLDWIDE CELEBRATION with the historic 1<sup>st</sup> Opening Ceremony in Europe.
- 2011 年——意大利的卡塞塔坚信值得赞扬的创举（道教节庆典），乐于同新加坡、印度尼西亚和马来西亚一起在欧洲发起道教节世界庆典活动和首次历史性开幕式。
- Pilgrimage was made to the Native Place of Lao Zi: Tian Jing Gong – Guoyang, Anhui, China.  
前往老子故里：中国安徽省涡阳县——天静宫进行朝圣。
- East Malaysia Sabah staged the Closing Ceremony.  
东马来西亚沙巴圆满举办闭幕式。
- 2012 – Taiwan Kaohsiung admired Singapore’s 17 years of effort in promoting TAOIST DAY, warmly gave their thumbs-up support to strengthen the organising network by marking Taiwan’s 1st Taoist Day Worldwide Celebration.

2012 年—— 台湾高雄赞扬新加坡 17 年来致力于促进道教节发展所做的努力并给予大力支持，通过举办台湾首次道教节世界庆典开幕式活动巩固组织中的道教网络建设。

Pilgrimage was made to two holy sites,

- 1) the Native Place of Lao Zi: Tian Qing Gong – Guoyang, Anhui, China
- 2) Birthplace of Taoism: Tai Qing Gong – Luyi, Henan, China

前往两个圣地进行朝圣:

- 1) 老子故里: 中国安徽省涡阳县——天静宫。
- 2) 道教圣地: 中国河南省鹿邑县——太清宫。

Italy celebrated the finale, the Closing Ceremony at the Second Napoli University with the heartwarming presence and support of University Dean and Caserta's Bishop and Mayor.

闭幕式在意大利卡塞塔省内的那不勒斯第二大学圆满举办，那不勒斯第二大学校长、卡塞塔省长、市长和主教支持并参加本次仪式，令人倍感欣慰。

2013 – East Malaysia Sabah held the Opening Ceremony TAOIST DAY Worldwide Celebration which gathered support of 18 countries and 230 global partners i.e. temples, associations and institutes across the world celebrating this special day.

2013 年—— 东马来西亚沙巴举办了道教节世界庆典开幕仪式，得到全球 18 个国家和 230 个合作单位如- 世界各地宫观庙宇、协会和机构等的支持，共同欢庆这一大子。

Pilgrimage was made to two holy sites,

- 1) the Native Place of Lao Zi: Tian Qing Gong – Guoyang, Anhui, China &
- 2) Tai Qing Gong – Luyi, Henan, China.

前往两个圣地进行朝圣:

- 1) 老子故里: 中国安徽省涡阳县——天静宫及
- 2) 道教圣地: 中国河南省鹿邑县——太清宫。

Taiwan Kaohsiung presented a grand and significant Closing Ceremony marking a 3-year run of the worldwide celebration involving an opening and closing ceremony at 2 different countries.

台湾高雄举办了一次意义重大及隆重的闭幕式，标志着为期三年的世界庆典圆满地在两个不同国家举办开幕和闭幕式。

2014 – Plans are now in progress for the next Taoist Day Worldwide Celebration!  
2014 年—— 下一届道教节世界庆典正在筹划中！

Enquiries are welcome.

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欢迎垂询。

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***With appreciation and thanks to these References:***

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And to all who has extended a helping hand in my humble journey of learning, especially Taoist Mission (Singapore).

向所有在我谦虚学习历程中给予帮助的人或单位致谢，特别是新加坡道教协会。

Eternally grateful to Dao Zu for giving me the task to ‘walk’ the Earth with TAO.

永远感谢道祖给予我“道行天下”的任务。