

## 中西天人关系与人之关切

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### [英文提要]

The study of the relationship between Heaven/God and Man is an important one in the philosophical and religious cognition and reflections of both China and the West. It reveals how Chinese and western thinking handle relationships in human existence and methods of understanding. It also depicts their differences and similarities. This article deals with the relationship between Heaven and Man. Based on the study of man's understanding of Heaven and human concerns within this relationship, the author analyzes the understanding of the nature of God in the history of religious thought in China and the West.

The first part of the article inquires into the Chinese and western understanding of "Heaven" and "God". According to the cultural tradition of China, Heaven is to be understood in light of "Heavenly Way" (*tien tao*). Chinese religious cognition sublimates "Heaven" or "Way" from the natural realm into that of the divine so that it becomes a metaphysical or theological concept.

Western tradition and thinking on the other hand is characterized by its study of "God", expressed typically in the Christian concept of God which embodies the concept of God in both

ancient Greek philosophy and Hebrew culture . This concept is an organic synthesis of the abstract and anthropological understanding of God which reflects not only the transcendental and metaphysical pursuit of man, but also his inner, practical concerns.

The latter part of the article analyzes the relationship between Heaven and Man or God and Man in Chinese and western thought. This relationship includes many aspects: the birth of Man by Heaven versus the creation of Man by God, Heaven's care for the common man versus God's love for Man, the intuitive relationship between Heaven and Man versus fellowship between God and Man, Heaven/God's concern for Man and Man's reverence for Heaven or worship of God. Heaven/God's reward for good and punishment for evil, and Heaven/God's union with Man, etc. In these relationships, man's ultimate concern and metaphysical pursuit are closely connected to man's practical concerns and earthly existence. Both aspects are indispensable in the realm of religion.

The article tries to explain man's real concerns and purpose in his search for the nature of God or the study of metaphysics, from which it explores the possibilities and difficulties in cultural dialogue and the meeting of minds between China and the West.

对天人关系的探究,无论中西方,都是基于“人”这一主体,即人对“天”、对“神”的认识,对自我与其认知对象之关系的思考。而这种认识和思考,乃是出于人本身的根本关切。这种关切既包括人之认识论意义上的探求,也有着人之生存论意义上的需要。在中西天人关系之探讨中,人的生存关系和致知取向都得到