

Contents

	Acknowledgments	xi
	Preface	xv
1.	Reading the Daodejing Synthetically	1
	Orientations	1
	Conventions	3
	Shadows	9
	On the Early Daoism Label	12
2.	Modern Scholarship on the Daodejing	15
	Religious and Philosophical Approaches to the Daodejing	15
	Modern Western Approaches to the Daodejing	21
	Modern Chinese Approaches to the Daodejing	35
3.	Traditions of Reading the Daodejing	47
	Daojia, Daojiao, and Early Daoism	47
	The Role of Commentary in the Daodejing	51
	The Heshang Gong Commentary	53

	The Xiang'er Commentary	55
	The Wang Bi Commentary	57
	Three Commentaries in Comparison	58
4.	The Daos of Laozi and Confucius	67
	Records of the Interview	67
	Glimpses into the Dao of Antiquity	74
	The Fault Line	81
	Two Disciplines of the Body	85
	Laozi and Confucius Revisited	91
5٠	Early Daoism, Yangsheng, and the Daodejing	93
	The Hiddenness of Early Daoism	93
	A Separate History	100
	Orality and the Daodejing	103
	Early Daoism and Yangsheng	109
	Two Master Traditions and a Third	119
	Yangsheng and the Daodejing	132
6.	The Sage and the World	139
	Early Chinese Archetypes: the Sage, the King, and the General	139
		139
	The Benefits of the Sage Qi: The Stuff of Life	140
		152
	<i>De</i> : Circulation Is Not Always Virtuous <i>De</i> in Action	165
		105
7.	The Sage and the Project	175
	The Death-World	175
	Projects	183
	The Great Project of the World	189
	Salvation	194

8.	The Sage and Bad Knowledge	197
	A Confucian Study Break	197
	Knowledge and Yangsheng Sequences	201
	Brightness and Yangsheng Sequences	205
	Knowledge Is a Sickness	211
	The Question of Early Daoism Revisited	222
9.	The Sage and Good Knowledge	225
	The Second-Order Harmony	225
	Yangsheng and the Knowledge of the Sage	229
	Appendix: The Daodejing	235
	Notes	269
	Bibliography	293
	Index	303

1 X