

THE BIRTH OF A NEW RELIGION: MAITREYA GREAT TAO

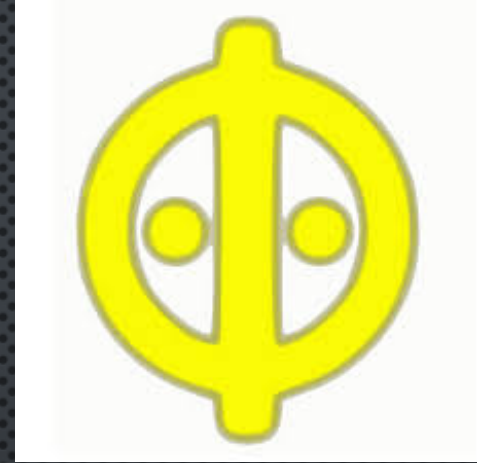
彌勒大道



EDWARD IRONS
CESNUR 2017
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THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE
FOR CULTURE, COMMERCE AND RELIGION

AGENDA



- BACKGROUND: YIGUANDAO IN CHINA AND TAIWAN
- TIAN DAO: PRECURSER TO THE GREAT WAY
- WANG HAODE AND THE GREAT WAY OF FORMER HEAVEN
- CURRENT STATUS AS AN INDEPENDENT GROUP
- ARGUMENTS

A WORD ON THE TITLE...

- GREAT WAY OF MAITREYA = MAITREYA GREAT TAO = 彌勒大道
- TAO = DAO = 道



The religious feature of
Maitreya Great Tao

彌勒大道的
宗教型態

汪圓善 著

WangYuanshan

汪圓善

2009

Major New Source on
Maitreya Great Tao

YIGUANDAO IN CHINA: RECENT LEADERS

LU ZHONGYI, ZHANG TIANRAN & SUN SUZHEN



17th Patriarch from 1905-1924



Joint 18th Patriarchs from 1930-1947/1995

THE ANTI-HETERODOX GROUPS AND SECRET SOCIETIES CAMPAIGN, 1953



- [HTTP://GANSU.GSCN.COM.CN/SYSTEM/2016/12/06/011553360.SHTML](http://GANSU.GSCN.COM.CN/SYSTEM/2016/12/06/011553360.SHTML)

BACKGROUND: YIGUANDAO IN TAIWAN

2005 CENSUS FIGURES:

- YIGUANDAO: 3.5% OF THE TOTAL POPULATION, 850,000 PEOPLE
- MAITREYA GREAT TAO: 1.1% 250,000 BELIEVERS

"2006 REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM". U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. 2006. RETRIEVED 2007-09-01

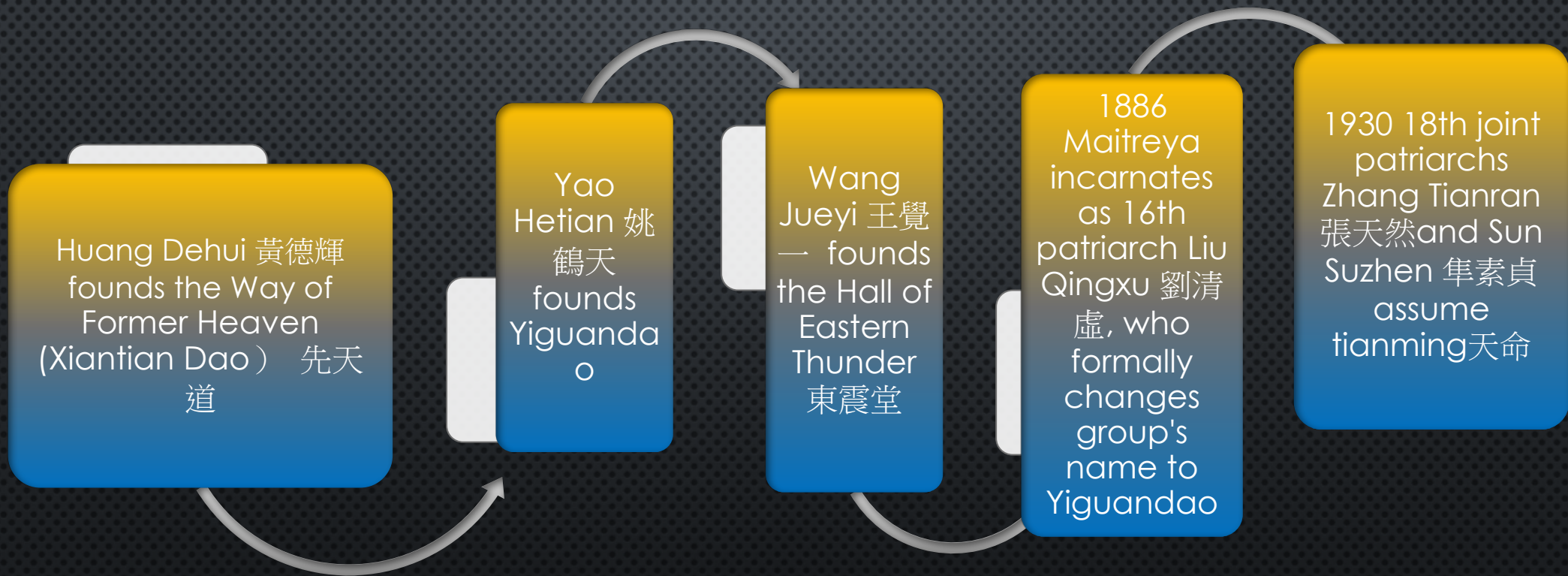
TIAN DAO: PRECURSER TO MAITREYA GREAT TAO



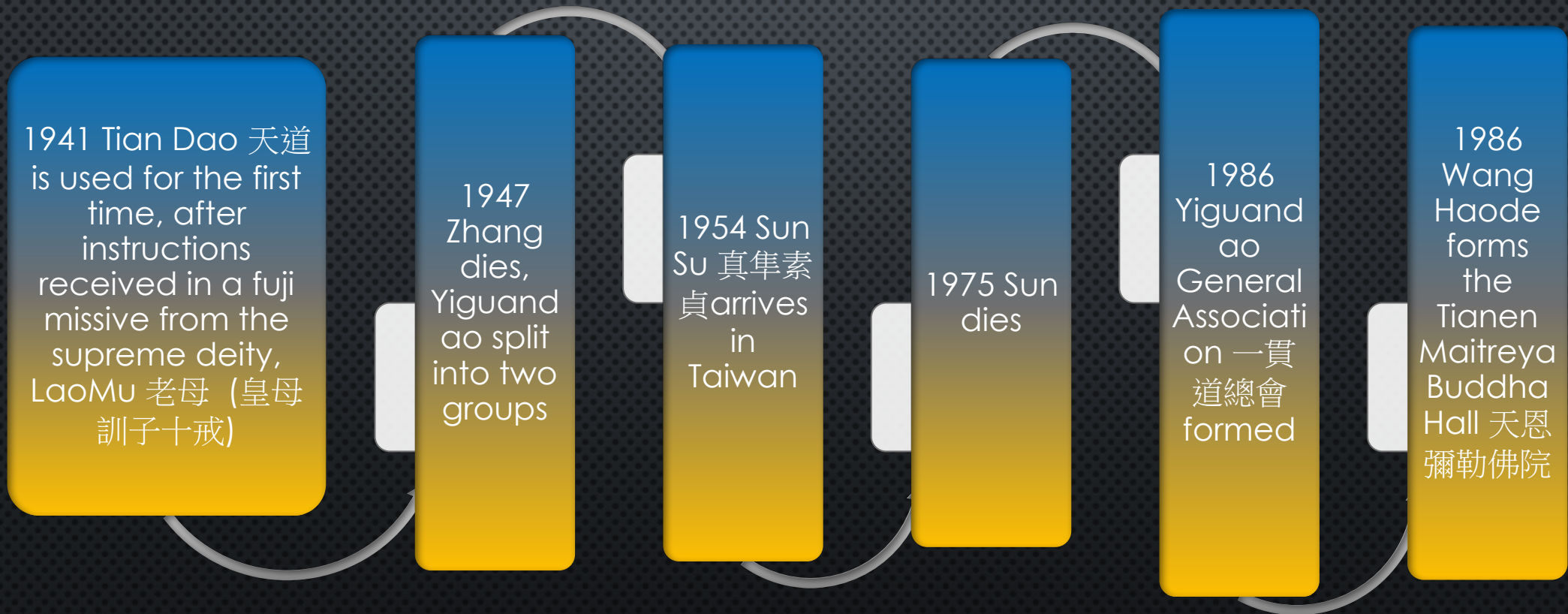
THE YIGUANDAO DAOTONG 道統: PERIODIZATION



KEY POINTS IN THE YIGUANDAO LINEAGE (DAOTONG 道統) (SIMPLIFIED 1)



KEY POINTS IN THE DAOTONG (2)



WANG HAODE 王好德 AND XIANTIAN 大道先天大道 (THE GREAT WAY OF FORMER HEAVEN)



“FIRST GENERATION” TRANSMITTER 第一代傳人

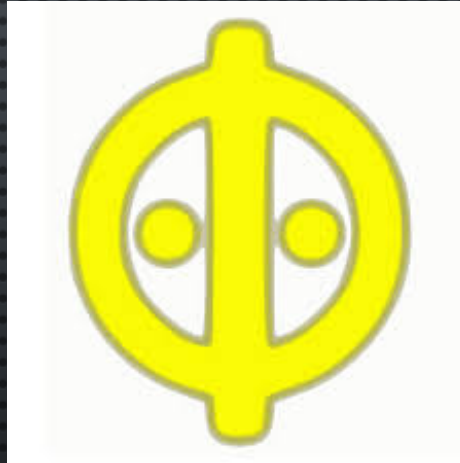
WANG HAODE AND THE GREAT WAY OF FORMER HEAVEN : EVENTS

- BORN 1927, SHANDONG
- TO TAIWAN 1947
- CONVERTED TO YIGUANDAO 1948
- 1955 APPOINTED AS PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO SUN SUZHEN
- 1975 DEATH OF SUN SUZHEN
- 1975 ESTABLISHES 天恩弥勒佛院 IN HSINCHU 新竹, CENTRAL TAIWAN
- 1982-5 SET UP 慈光講堂 THROUGHOUT TAIWAN
- 1987 REGISTERS 財團法人天恩彌勒佛院 AS LEGAL ENTITY
- 1999 DIES IN NORTHERN THAILAND

PAN-YIGUANDAO: DERIVATION AND CONNECTIONS



MAITREYA GREAT TAO: CURRENT STATUS AS AN INDEPENDENT GROUP



Inverted 母 (mother), symbol of the Ancient Mother 老母

THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP: WANG CIGUANG 汪慈光 & YAN MIAORU 顏妙如 (NOT PICTURED)



“SECOND GENERATION” TRANSMITTER 第二代傳人

SOME LEADERSHIP FACTORS

Intimate Care-giving



Strategic Relations



Vision



LEADERSHIP FACTORS: INTIMATE CARE-GIVING

(1) CAREGIVING IS A NATURAL EXPECTED PART OF LIFE.... (2) CAREGIVING IS A CULTURALLY PRESCRIBED OBLIGATION.....

XICHENHUI QIU, JANET W SIT, HAIXIA FENG, THE INFLUENCE OF CHINESE CULTURE ON CAREGIVING ROLE PERCEPTIONS AMONG STROKE CAREGIVERS, IN *STROKE, AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION JOURNAL*, 2016, [HTTP://STROKE.AHAJOURNALS.ORG/CONTENT/47/SUPPL_1/ANS3](http://stroke.ahajournals.org/content/47/suppl_1/ANS3).

STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP BUILDING: TWO MASTER PRACTITIONERS



Wang Haode



Wang Ciguang

LEADERSHIP FACTORS: STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

- RELATIONS BETWEEN TEMPLES AND MAJOR LINEAGES ARE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN LEADERS (QIANREN 前人)
- THESE NEGOTIATIONS EXIST IN A SEPARATE REALM FROM THE DAY TO DAY WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES
- THE ABILITY TO MANAGE A COMPLEX NETWORK OF LINEAGES AND INFLUENTIAL TEMPLES IS KEY TO FUND-RAISING, DISTRIBUTION OF NEW IDEAS, AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING.

LEADERSHIP VISION: ELEMENTS

- MONUMENTAL BUILDINGS (AWE)
- REFOCUS ON MAITREYA WORSHIP (REBRANDING)
- REFINING DOCTRINE (REORIENTING)
- EXTRAVAGANZAS (ENTERTAINING)
- ADDRESSING CONTEMPORARY CONCERNS (RELEVANCE)

VISION: MONUMENTAL BUILDINGS



TIANEN MAITREYA BUDDHA CENTER EMEI, TAIWAN



VISION: MAITREYA WORSHIP



THE IMPORTANCE OF MAITREYA IN SECTARIAN CHINESE RELIGIONS

IN THE SCRIPTURE TEXTS THEMSELVES HIS ROLE IS PREDOMINANTLY OTHERWORLDLY; HE COMES TO RESCUE THE LOST FROM THE PROFANE WORLD BY REMINDING THEM OF THEIR SACRED ROOTS AND SHOWING THEM THE WAY HOME TO THE ETERNAL MOTHER....

DANIEL L. OVERMYER, IN *MESSINGER, SAVIOR, AND REVOLUTIONARY: MAITREYA IN CHINESE POPULAR RELIGIOUS LITERATURE OF THE SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH CENTURIES*, 1988

THE GREAT MAITREYA FIGURE AT EMEI 72 METERS



Built 2002-2011

VISION: EXTRAVAGANZAS



VISION: ADDRESSING CONTEMPORARY CONCERNS



Nature Park



2014年熱愛大自然年會 2014 Annual Love Nature Assembly
International Nature Loving Federation

ARGUMENT SUMMARY

MAITREYA GREAT TAO DEVELOPED FROM THE GREATER YIGUANDAO TRADITION DUE TO :

- OSTCRACISM (SOCIAL PRESSURE OF EXCLUSION)
- STRATEGIC POSITIONING (CARE-GIVING AND OPPORTUNISM)
- RELATIONSHIP BUILDING (POLITICKING AND FUND-RAISING)
- VISION (CREATIVITY, RE-IMAGINING, REBRANDING, REOREINTING)

THANK YOU!



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