

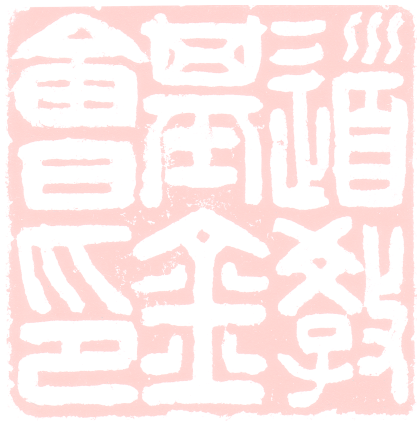
Guide to A.C. Graham's *Chuang-tzŭ*  
(Hackett Publishing Company, 2001 [1981])

Louis Komjathy 康思奇, Ph.D., CSO  
Center for Daoist Studies 道學中心

As I have suggested in my *Leaping into the Boundless: A Daoist Commentary on the Zhuāngzǐ* (2026), Graham's translation is catastrophically deficient as such, however influential and revered it is.\* Nonetheless, it retains its value and deserves engagement for a variety of reasons. First, and principally for individuals interested in engaging the text in a more sophisticated manner, Graham's publication is the only translation to present the text in a reorganized manner, emphasizing lineage affiliations. However, this feature also makes finding the parallel passages in the received text somewhat challenging. This is the rationale behind the current Daoist Studies installment. Second, and more relevant for intellectual genealogy and the history of (mis)translation and (mis)interpretation, Graham, like Chan, Fung, and Schwartz, helped to establish an academic trajectory leading into the field of so-called "Chinese philosophy," and now what I pejoratively refer to as the "*Zhuāngzǐ* Philosophy Industry" (ZZPI). Almost everything published in Western languages falls into the latter category. In addition to being rooted in colonialist and Orientalist constructions and appropriations, such (dis)engagements evidence a lack of deep understanding of not only the text itself but also the affiliation with the Inner Cultivation Lineages (ICL) of classical Daoism. Thus, one might ask, "Did anyone read the classical Chinese Daoist source-text as such?" In any case, Graham translates the so-called Inner Chapters (chs. 1-7) in order as Part I (43-99). After collecting various passages that he associates with the "writings of Zhuāngzǐ" in Part II, he employs what may be understood along the more revisionist lines in terms of the following four classical Daoist lineages: (III) Zhuangists; (IV) Primitivists; (V) Individualists; and (VI) Syncretists. Knowledgeable readers will note the absence of the Anthologists, which I address in my commentary. In terms of the larger parameters of Graham's translation, the current guide consists of two divisions. The first lists Graham's own organization with the associated ZZ chapters, while the second lists the ZZ chapters and corresponding Graham page numbers.

---

\* Note that there is the absurd quasi-*festschrift* *Having a Word with Angus Graham: At Twenty-Five Years into His Immortality* (2018). Here we must recognize that much of the authority, influence, and legacy of the individuals in question (e.g., Ames, Mair, Rosemont, Roth) are partially dependent on that of Graham himself. Unfortunately, these are unstable foundations, especially for individuals interested in Daoist literature and the Daoist tradition as such.



## ACCORDING TO GRAHAM'S ORGANIZATION

### Passages Related to the Inner Chapters

26 (100)  
24 (101)  
27 (102)  
25 (102)  
23 (103-4)  
24 (105)  
27 (105)  
23 (106)  
27 (106-7)  
32 (108)  
25 (108-9)  
25 (109)  
24 (110)  
25 (110-11)

### A "School of Chuang-tzŭ" Selection

#### *Stories about Chuang-tzŭ*

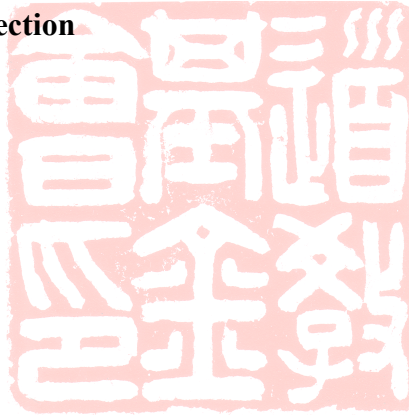
20 (118)  
32 (118-19) (via SJ 63)  
26 (119)  
32 (119-20)  
20 (120-21)  
21 (122)  
17 (122-23)  
18 (123-24)  
24 (124)  
18 (124-25)  
32 (125)

#### *Dialogues of Confucius and Old Tan*

13 (128)  
14 (128-30)  
21 (130-31)  
12 (131-32)  
22 (132-33)  
14 (133-34)

#### *The Advantages of Spontaneity*

19 (135-38)  
21 (139)  
22 (139)  
13 (139-40)  
21 (140-41)  
25 (141)  
32 (141-42)



*Rationalising the Way: The “Great Man”*

17 (144-49)

24 (150)

11 (150)

17 (150)

25 (151-54)

17 (154-56)

12 (156)

*Irrationalising the Way: “Knowledge Roams North”*

22 (159-64)

14 (164-66)

20 (167-68)

21 (168-69)

*Utopia and the Decline of Government*

16 (171-72)

20 (173)

12 (174)

19 (174)

12 (174-75)

*The Cult of Immortality*

11 (177-79)

12 (179-80)

*The Essentials of Our Nature and Destiny*

19 (181-82)

32 (182)

*Stray Ideas*

18 (184)

11 (185)

12 (186-87)

25 (188)

*Miscellaneous*

18 (189-90)

26 (190)

23 (190)

19 (191-92)

14 (192-93)

**The Essays of the Primitivist and Episodes Related to Them**

*Webbed Toes*

8 (200-3)

*Horses’ Hooves*

9 (204-6)

*Riffling Trunks*

10 (207-10)

*Keep It in Place and within Bounds*

11 (211-13)



*Episodes Related to the Primitivist Essays*

14 (214-15)

12 & 11 (216-17)

**The Yangist Miscellany**

*Yielding the Throne*

28 (225-33)

*Robber Chih*

29 (234-43)

*The Discourse on Swords*

30 (244-47)

*The Old Fisherman*

31 (248-53)

**The Syncretist Writings**

*The Way of Heaven*

13 (259-63)

*Finicky Notions*

27 (264-67)

*Syncretist Fragments*

11 (268)

*Three Rhapsodies on the Way*

12 (269)

14 (269-70)

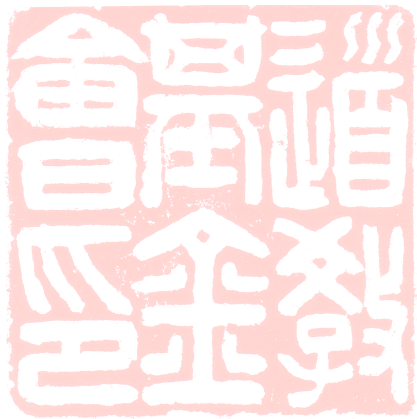
12 (271-73)

13 (273)

*Below in the Empire*

33 (274-85)





ACCORDING TO THE RECEIVED *ZHUĀNGZĪ* CHAPTERS

8 (200-3)

9 (204-6)

10 (207-10)

11 (211-13, 177-79, 216, 185, 150, 268)

12 (269, 271-73, 179-80, 174-75, 156, 131-32, 186-87, 174, 216-17)

13 (259-63, 128, 273, 139-40)

14 (269-70, 164-66, 192-93, 129-30, 128-29, 214-15, 133-34)

15 (264-67)

16 (171-72)

17 (144-49, 150, 154-56, 122-23)

18 (123-24, 124-25, 189-90, 184)

19 (181-82, 174, 137, 138, 136-37, 191-92, 135-36, 135, 138)

20 (121, 173, 142, 120, 167-68, 118)

21 (168-69, 130-31, 122, 139, 140-41)

22 (159-64, 132-33, 139)

23 (103, 102-3, 104, 190, 106)

24 (101, 124, 105, 149-50, 110)

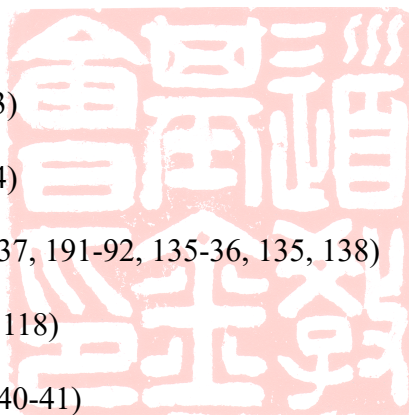
25 (141, 110-11, 109, 188, 102, 108-9, 151-54)

26 (119, 100, 190)

27 (106-7, 102, 105-6)

28 (225-33)

29 (234-43)



30 (244-47)

31 (248-53)

32 (142, 108, 119-20, 182, 120, 118-19, 125)

33 (274-85)

