

GUEST EDITOR'S PREFACE

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As part of the “Chinese Classics” initiative of the UTSA Eastern Asian Institute, the “2018 UTSA International Symposium on Chinese Four Literature Masterpieces and Classics”—*A Dream of Red Mansions, the History of Three Kingdoms, Journey to the West, and The Water Marsh*—was successfully held at the UTSA 1604 campus on October 26-27, 2018. I hope that the success of this project will inspire more interest and enthusiasm for other projects in the initiative. I am grateful that the *Journal of East-West Thought* has devoted a special issue: *Chinese Literature Masterpieces and Humanities' Studies* to publish five select papers from the symposium and honored to have the opportunity to be its guest editor. Dr. Nathan's paper discusses the complementary relationship between humanities studies by reading classical Chinese literatures and modern survey studies. Dr. Chen's paper reads *A Dream of Red Mansions* philosophically. Dr. He's article also addresses the varied philosophical aspects of the classic *A Dream of Red Mansions*. Dr. Zhang's treatise reads another classic, *Journey to the West*, as a literary paradigm of illustration for a special mind theory. Dr. Li discusses the hermeneutic movement in literary commentaries on novels in Ming-Qing dynasties. It would be perfect if a paper on teaching Chinese literature classics were part of the symposium and part of this volume.

I would like to thank the Office of UTSA Vice-Provost for International Affairs for its support for the symposium, the Department of Philosophy and Classics at UTSA for co-organizing the symposium, and the UTSA Texas Institute of Culture for co-sponsoring the symposium. This consortial effort reminds me of a classic Chinese saying: “he who has the *Dao* will have help from everywhere (得道多助).” The fact that we receive help and participation from everywhere may just indicate that we are with the *Dao*.

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