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LÂO-TSZE

THE GREAT THINKER

WITH A TRANSLATION OF HIS
THOUGHTS ON THE NATURE AND
MANIFESTATIONS OF GOD

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL G. G. ALEXANDER, C.B.

AUTHOR OF "CONFUCIUS, THE GREAT TEACHER"

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P R E F A C E.



THE favourable reception given to my work on Confucius has encouraged me to place before the public, in a form which I have thought best adapted to enlist its sympathies, another Chinese classical subject—the life and teaching of the most distinguished of Confucius's contemporaries, Lâo-tsze, the Great Thinker. The great difference between the two men, however, has necessitated, in the present instance, a somewhat modified treatment, inasmuch that whilst the personality of Confucius looms out of the past, a comparatively clear and well-defined shape, that of Lâo-tsze comes down to us so shadowy and indistinct that, apart from a few recorded incidents belonging to his life, our knowledge of him has to be gained from the thoughts to which he gave utterance in his one great work, the Tâo-tih-King.

It is for this reason that I have made a translation