Summary

This dissertation is a study on Zhuangzi's philosophy with specific focus on the discussion of the meaning and significance of the two concepts, namely, Greatness and Smallness.

After the literary review of the issues, the thesis begins with textual and linguistic investigation. The words "da" (great) and "xiao" (small), as well as all of their compounds are closely counted and analysed. The statistic data demonstrates that Zhuangzi's philosophy does have the preference of greatness over smallness, although he is famed for the theory of equalizing things.

This position is further proved and developed by investigation and analysis of four most important chapters of the Zhuangzi, namely, "Free And Easy Wandering" (Xiaoyaoyou), "Discussion on Making All Things Equal" (Qiwlun), "The Great And Venerable Teacher" (Dazongshi), from the inner chapters, and "Autumn Water" (Qiushui) from the outer chapters.

Furthermore, the next chapter of the thesis copes with philosophical discussion on the topic of the discrimination between the greatness and the smallness. Four sub-topics are deliberated: the discrimination of greatness and smallness in earthly life, from the discrimination of greatness and smallness to the theory of equality of them, from obedience of destiny and the greatness to free and easy wandering, and the relationship of Tao (the Way) and the discrimination of the greatness and the smallness.

Generally speaking, the thesis deals with the relationship of the claim of the difference between greatness and smallness and the pursuit of greatness as the highest experience of spiritual freedom and the unity with Tao. The comparison of the imaginary greatest bird the "roc" (peng) with quail or (yan) is a typical example of the discrimination of greatness and smallness. However, the greatness of roc belongs
to the world of phenomenon. The absolute great is of Tao and the experience of the unity with Tao. Free easy wandering vividly depicts the greatness of the absolute spiritual freedom, which transcends the discrimination of all difference and opposition, including greatness and smallness.