

Comment on the View of 〈 *Shih Yin-fu*
Advisory Book of Merits and Demerits 〉
Toward Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism

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Abstract

Books of merits and demerits record and list the good deeds and bad deeds of people respectively. They are usually divided into the books of merits and the books of demerits. The Book of Merits and Demerits of Tai Wei Celestial is the first book of this kind. Although Shih Yin-fu Advisory Book of Merits and Demerits has the title of "book of merits and demerits", it is quite different from other books which assume the same title. It does not list all the good deeds and bad deeds. Instead, it is presented in the form of novels, like precious scrolls for preaching.

Shih Yin-fu Advisory Book of Merits and Demerits is an advisory book which combines the concept of interaction in Taoism and the Confucian School Idealist Philosophy of the Sung and Ming Dynasties. The views toward fast, abstention from killing, chanting and recitation of sutra in the book differ from those of other advisory books. It does not encourage people to become monks and withdraw from society. Instead, it advises people to do good deeds from their own houses and put themselves in the human world. The book encourages people to fulfill the traditional Chinese concepts of the proper ethical relationship in Confucianism, such as filial piety, sibling affection, loyalty and sincerity and dedicate themselves to the well-being of the society. It does not propose performing tonsure ceremonies, becoming monks or spending one's life in

