

# On the Social Aspects of “Tai-ping-jing (太平經)”

by Tadahiko TAKAHASHI

In explaining the character of thoughts of “Tai-ping-jing”, it is necessary to elucidate its social aspects, though concrete references to the actual world seldom are found in the text.

In this paper the author tried to analyse some tendencies, which are seen in arguments from “Tai-ping-jing” concerning to social problems. In many cases, while discussing social, political, and economical matters, the text insists on, directly or indirectly, protecting traditional communities and families, borrowing ethics from Confucianism. For example, the text says, that one should train his immortality, not in remote field, but in his family. As traditional communities are based on agriculture, the text at times betrays its antipathy against commercial activities and mining industry.

In conclusion, the thoughts of “Tai-ping-jing” can be said to represent, to some extent, the anxiety of peasant classes, who are menaced by social and economical changes, and who want to maintain traditional order of society.