

## **ABSTRACT**

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***Dissertation Title: Understanding Zhuangzi's Oneness through the Concept of Xu***

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This dissertation focuses on discussing what is the reality in reference to Zhuangzi's philosophy of Oneness. It begins with the discussion of the two significant issues in our contemporary world and suggests that the cause of the issues today may be rooted in the way that people look at the reality.

In Chapter I, the dissertation first presents an introduction of the overall background, objectives, and significance of the study; as well as the research methodology employed. Secondly in Chapter II, it provides the readers with the description and exposition of Zhuangzi's concepts of Dao, De and Oneness, together with a detailed interpretation of Zhuangzi's Oneness in four layers. Thirdly in Chapter III, it majorly discusses two concepts of Xu and Xin which play important roles in individuals' life in relating to the reality of Oneness. Fourthly in Chapter IV, Zhuangzi's cultivation of Xu is explored. It presents that the cultivation of Xu is the practice which works on individuals' Xin in order to be reconnected with the reality. The critiques of Zhuangzi's philosophy are also discussed. Lastly in Chapter V, the retrospection and conclusion of this research are pre-

sented, and a considerable deliberation of the relevance of the study along with recommendations for further research are delivered in the same chapter.

This dissertation aims to provide a detailed analysis of Zhuangzi's philosophy of Oneness, and how Zhuangzi's philosophy of Oneness is possible to be applied to interpret our world today. By doing these, it is the hope of the researcher to provide an alternative perspective of knowing what is real on both the outside world and the inner world of ourselves. Through knowing what is real, individuals may find an alternative way of interpreting the issues in contemporary world and a more balanced and holistic way of living.

