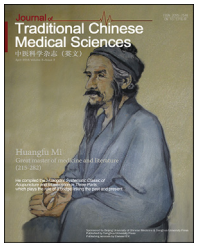
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Huangfu Mi, Great Master of Medicine and Literature

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Huangfu Mi (215—282), courtesy name: Huangfu Shi-an, sobriquet in his old age: Xuan Yan, given name Jing in his childhood, was from Chaona, Anding (today's Pingliang County, Gansu Province). He lived in the Jin Dynasties (265—316). Later, he moved to Xin'an (today's Mianchi County, Henan Province) with his uncle. Born into a poor family, he had to do farm work in daytime and studied at night. After hard working for years, he integrated the intellectual achievements of hundreds of schools of thoughts, and eventually became a prestigious scholar himself. According to legend, Zuo Si, an unknown writer, spent 10 years to complete writing the prose of *San Du Fu (Praiseworthy Three Cities)*, in which the three cities — Chendu, Jianye and Luoyang won applause for their prosperity. But he thought "the words of the lowly carry little weight", so he went to ask Huangfu Mi to write a preface for him. After reading the prose, Huangfu Mi heaped praise upon him and willingly agreed. As expected, the prose gained a reputation far and wide. Scholars and noblemen were scrambling to make and circulate its copies at the capital, which caused paper in short supply and the price of paper was rising steadily. From above we can see Huangfu Mi's great influence.

Although Huangfu Mi was so famous, he was indifferent to fame and fortune, ready to lead a poor but honest life. He regarded fame and wealth as dung and dirt, but writings as life. He rejected outright the recommendations to be government official for several times, even when the emperor of the Jin Dynasties wanted to enlist him to serve in the central government he refused politely.[1] Huangfu Mi was a prolific writer. His publications included *San Du Fu Xu (Preface of the Praiseworthy Three Cities), Di Wang Shi Ji (Imperial Century),Gao Shi Zhuan (Biography of Great Scholars), Lie Nv Zhuan (Biography of Virtuous Women in Ancient China), Xuan Yan Chun Qiu (Spring and Autumn by Xuan Yan), and Zhen Jiu Jia Yi Jing (Systematic Classic of Acupuncture and Moxibustion)*. He had made great achievements in medicine, history and literature. According to historical records, he suffered from hemianesthesia due to wind with pain at the age of 42, accompanied by atrophy of the right leg and poor hearing, and then he decided to dedicate himself to medicine, especially the study of acupuncture. Based on his clinical experience, after he made a comparative study of the previous classics on acupuncture, he finally completed *Huang Di San Bu Zhen Jiu Jia Yi Jing (Huangdi's Systematic Classic of Acupuncture and Moxibustion in Three Parts)*, often shortened to *The Systematic Classic of Acupuncture and Moxibustion* or *The Systematic Classic*. This is a most precious medical monography.

The achievements of theoretical study of traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture were summarized in the book in combination with the author's personal clinical experience. He drew materials from three medical classics—*Su Wen (Plain Questions), Lin Shu (Miraculous Pivot) and Ming Tang Kong Xue Zhen Jiu Zhi Yao (Essentials of Acupoint Location and Treatment)* and compiled one book by cutting the superfluous. It has 12 volumes or 128 passages and covers the *zang-fu* organs, acupuncture and meridians, acupoints, disease mechanisms, diagnosis and treatment. He identified 349 acupoints, including 300 that were on both sides of the body and 49 on only one side. In addition, the names and locations of the acupoints and the ways to locate them were also clarified in the book. The

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author discussed in detail about the anatomical sites of the acupoints, e.g. head, face, nape, shoulder, chest, back, abdomen and four limbs, which helped to locate them accurately. For easy clinical application, he elaborated acupuncture therapies for over 100 disorders of internal medicine, external medicine, gynecology, pediatrics and ENT with the disease cause, pathogenesis, patterns, acupoints, acupuncture treatment, contraindications and prognosis in about 500 items. The book is still of significant clinical value today.

Since its publication the book has been spoken highly by practitioners of later generations. Wang Tao, a great physician of the Tang Dynasty (618—907) said, "Physicians have to study his precious book and observe his instructions."[2] During the Tang Dynasty, the Imperial Academy of Medical Sciences took his book as a compulsory textbook for the medical students.[3] It was soon used as a textbook in Korea and Japan too.

Huangfu Mi was a brilliant man of wide learning. He dedicated his whole life to study of literature, history and medicine with great achievements. He collected ancient important acupuncture materials and compiled the *Huangdi's Systematic Classic of Acupuncture and Moxibustion in Three Parts*, which plays the role of a bridge linking the past and present. His great accomplishments and neglect of fame and wealth deserve admiration.

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