Viewing Marburg's Three Purities Scrolls
Group Report

A small group of us went to historic Marburg, Germany in September 2025 to view the Three Purities Scrolls that Hua-Ching Ni's books refer to. In the early morning hours, we practiced Tai Chi together in the old botanical garden. Later in the day, we studied the scrolls of the Three Purities at one of the oldest universities in Europe. Compared to their surroundings, the paintings were relatively young, dating back to copies from the early 1800s. Yet, the theme of the scrolls must be much older, judging by the clothing in which the Three Purities were depicted.

The images and craftsmanship beautifully express realms that are beyond what can be seen, touched or heard, completely impersonal and yet very present. What stayed most deeply was the subtle, serene smiles on their clear faces—like the finger pointing toward the bright moon, reminding us of the profound quietude accompanying our embrace of the light, peace, and purity of our three centers. All in all, an image expresses more than a thousand words ever could. Although it had long been that many of us wished to see the originals, in the end, we realized that they are merely examples of what Omni and the Eight Pillars of the Integral Way tradition seeks to transmit through all of its teachings.

Historical background: The scrolls are stored and well taken care of at the Religionskundliche Sammlung at the Philipps-University Marburg, saved from the cultural revolution. A lot is not known about the scrolls. A short calligraphy by the artist Chen Shi Ying on the Yu Shing scroll mentioned partly, "I am a disciple… I paint these for… and peace in the house, 1803". Around 1910, Reymond Du Bois, a French collector, bought them in Shanghai; his wife sold them to Marburg University in 1927. The three purities are extensively represented within the Taoist lore but the scrolls in Marburg are of a very special and refined quality. According to Dr. Mao, one of Omni's students gave him copies of negatives of the Marburg images when he was living in Taiwan and he used these on the covers of three of his books. Also, an artist used them to paint the images that are currently in the Shrine at Yo San University in Los Angeles.

"For myself, I can say that after the trip and the experience of having felt the energy of the Three Purities, I can feel a change in myself. I am more relaxed, worry less, and know even more certainly than before that I will follow and trust the Integral Way."

Resources shared by Philipps-University Marburg:
"A sketch of the Taoist Mythology in modern Form" by Reverent Joseph Edkins, British Royal Asia Society, 1859, p.309

"Imagining Chinese Medicine" by Patrice Fava, "The Body of Laozi and the Course of a Taoist Journey Through the Heavens"