

The background features a serene, misty mountain landscape. The mountains are layered, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. In the upper right, several birds are captured in flight against a pale sky. The foreground is filled with soft, ethereal white lines that swirl and flow, adding a magical or ethereal quality to the scene. The overall color palette is muted, consisting of soft blues, greys, and whites.

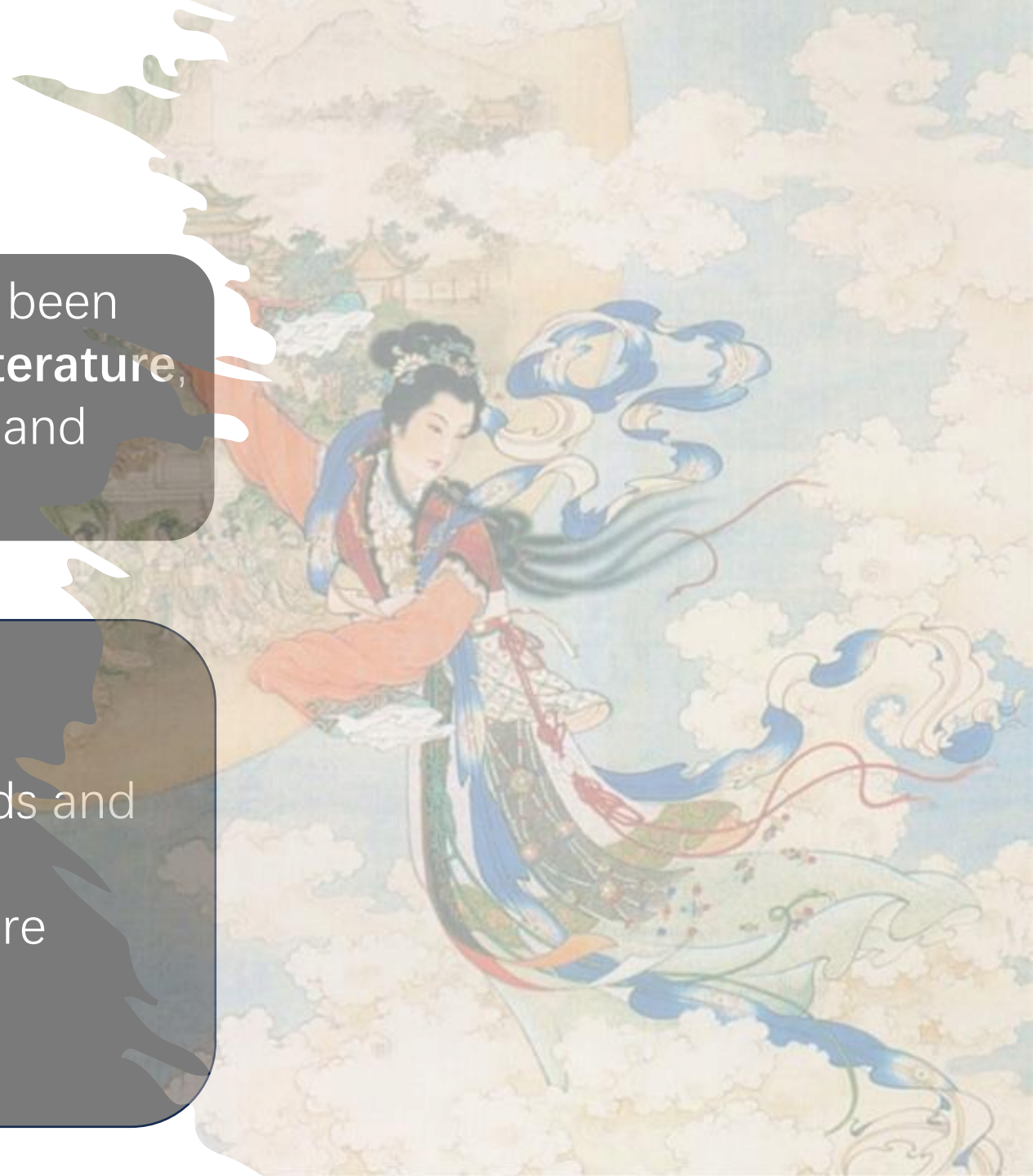
Mythology: Chinese Gods and Immortals

Presented by Winnie H

Chinese mythology

Chinese mythology is a mythology that has been passed down in **oral form** or recorded in **literature**, including many varied myths from regional and cultural traditions.

- **Genre:** narratives (stories/legends)
- **Features:** Imaginary; ancient
- **Characters:** extraordinary individuals/ gods and immortals/devils
- **Themes:** wishes or explanations for nature phenomena/human beings/society/cosmos/history...



Chinese mythology

Folk mythology



Ancient mythology



Religious mythology



Taoist mythology

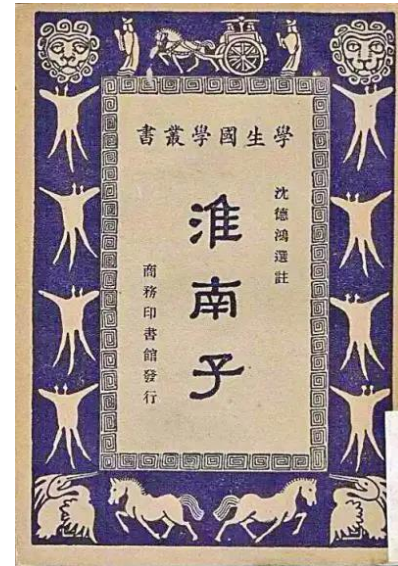
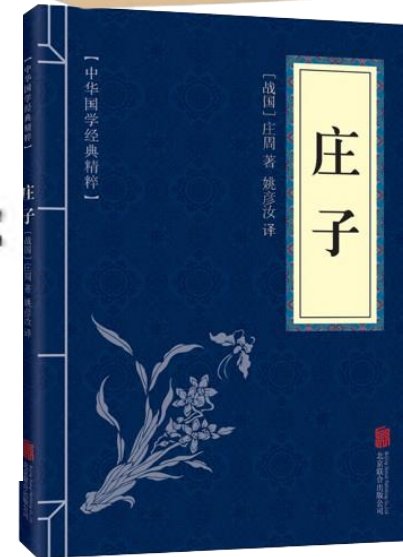
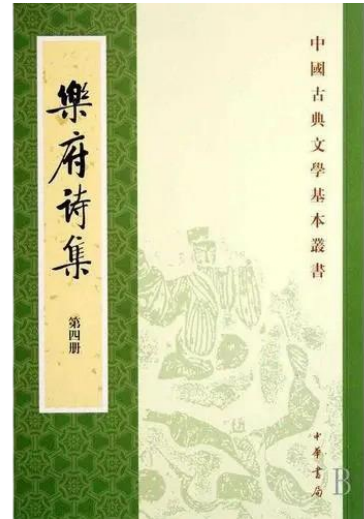
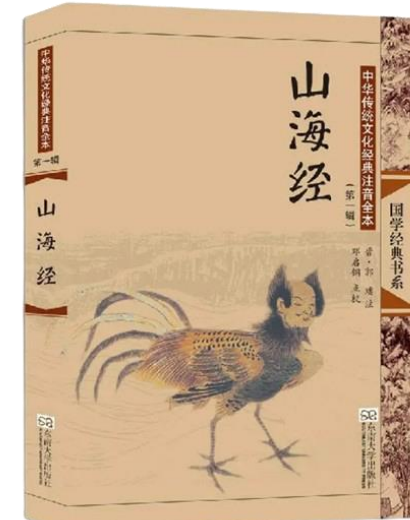
Buddhism mythology

Literary mythology



Ancient mythology Pre-Xia dynasty **No integrated system**

The Ancient mythologies are myths about the origin of man or the creation myths. It begins in ancient times (pre-Xia dynasty).



classics

Ancient mythology

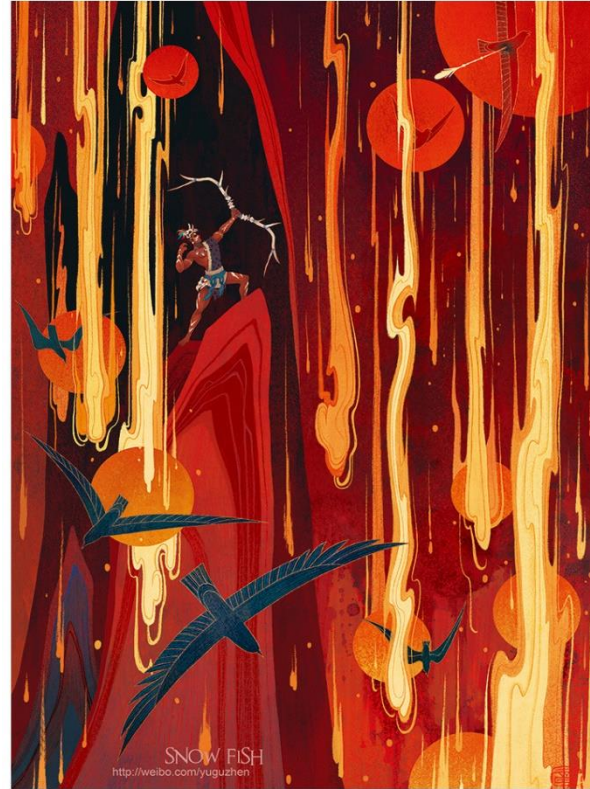
classification

Creation myths



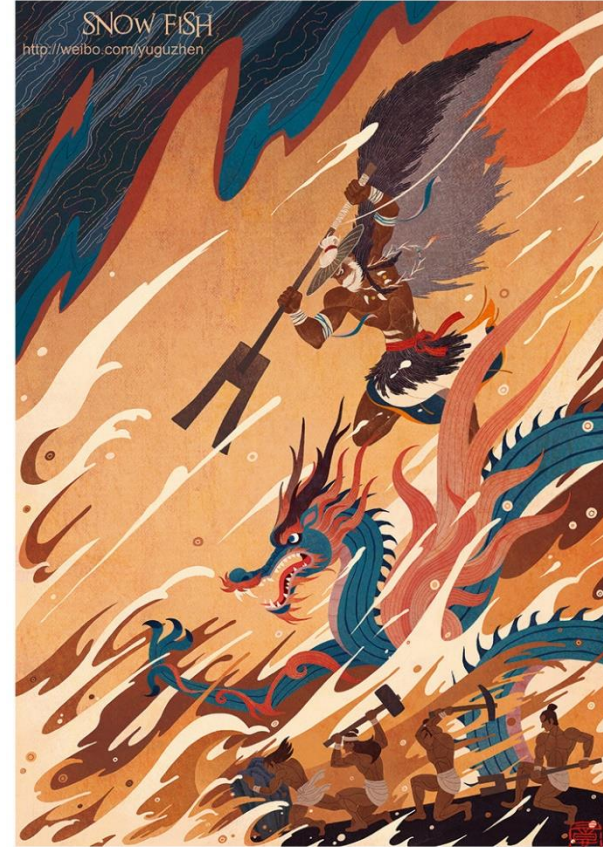
女媧補天

myths about human and nature



后羿射日

myths of heroes



大禹治水

myths about Tribal war

(
逐鹿之战
) (zhuō)

Chinese mythology

Folk mythology

Ancient mythology

Classics

classification

- myths about human and nature
- myths about Tribal war
- myths of heroes
- creation myths

Religious mythology

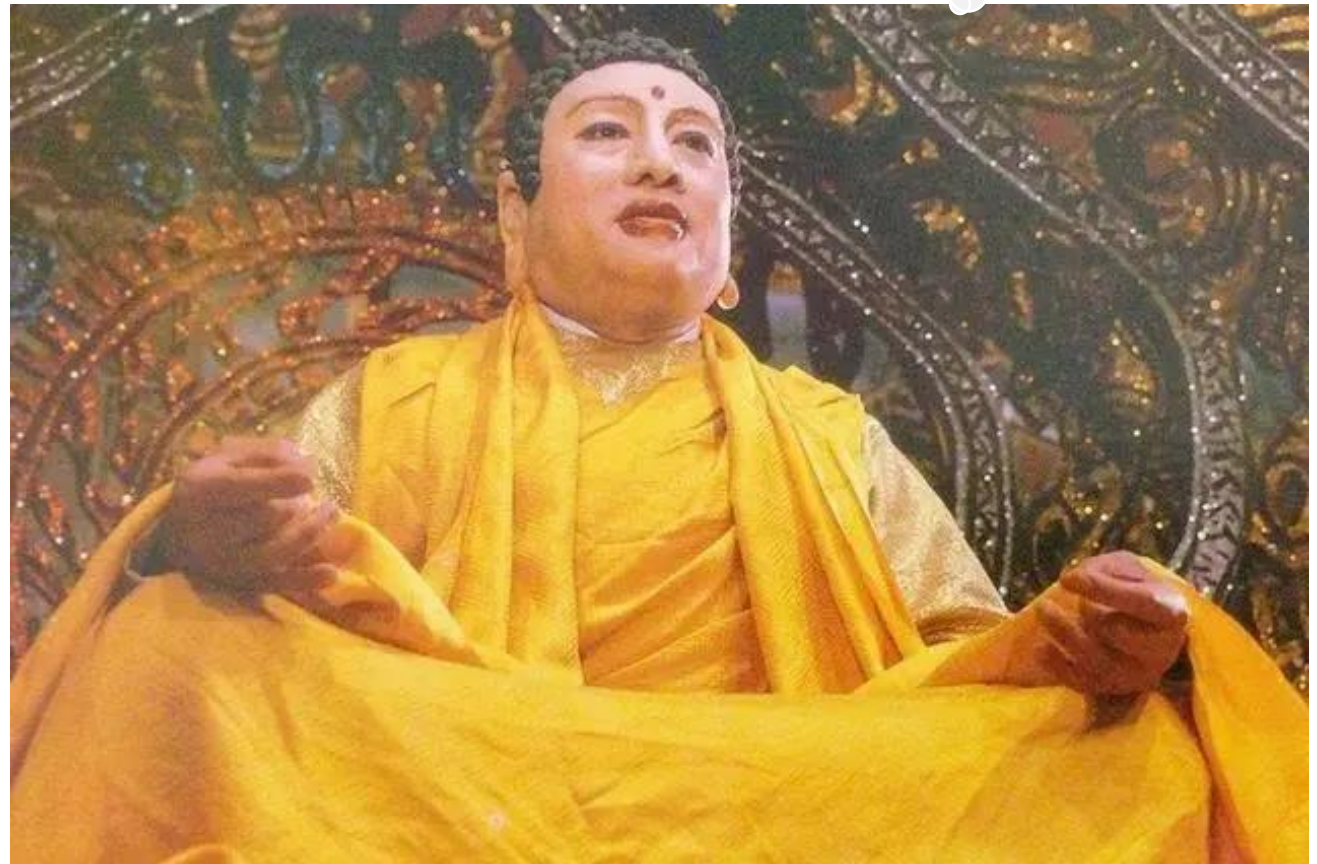
Taoist mythology

Buddhism mythology

Literary mythology

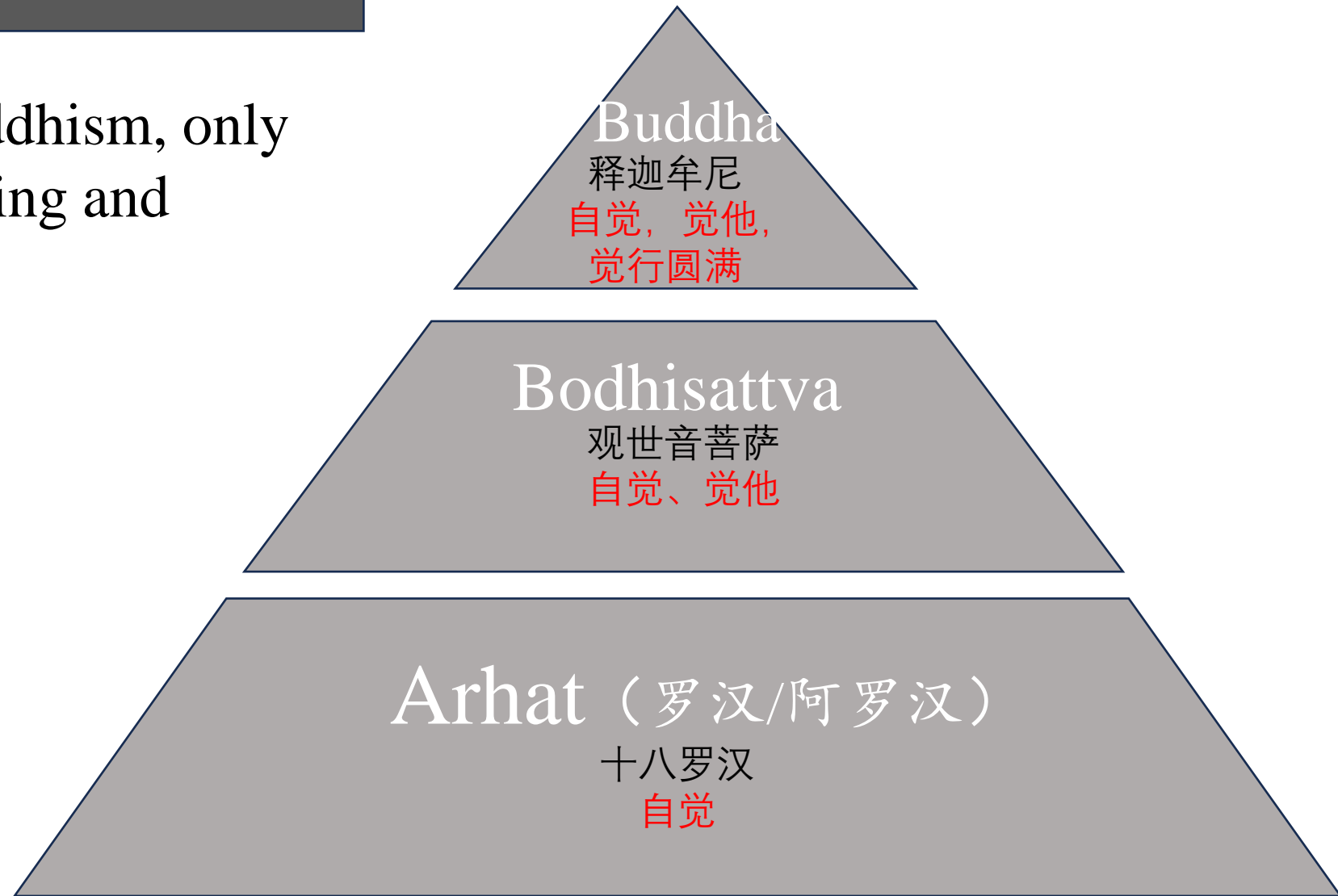
Buddhist mythology late Western Han dynasty

Is him/her a
god?



Buddhist mythology

There is no hierarchy in Buddhism, only the difference of understanding and practices(觉悟与修行)



Chinese mythology

Folk mythology

Ancient mythology

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- myths about human and nature
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Religious mythology

Taoist mythology

Buddhism mythology

Literary mythology

Taoist mythology

pantheistic

Taoism can be defined as pantheistic (泛神论的), given its philosophical emphasis on the formlessness of the Tao and the primacy of the “Way” rather than anthropomorphic (人格化的) concepts of God.



Pantheism is the philosophical religious belief that reality, **the universe, and nature are identical to divinity or a supreme entity**. The physical universe is thus understood as an immanent (无所不在的) deity, still expanding and creating, which has existed since the beginning of time.

Pantheist belief does not recognize a distinct personal god, anthropomorphic or otherwise, but instead characterizes a broad range of doctrines (教义, 信条) differing in forms of relationships between reality and divinity. (from Wikipedia)

Taoist mythology

Deities are arranged in a hierarchy

神话体系网 (道教)

三清:



元始天尊



元始天尊



道德天尊

六御:



中央玉皇大帝



北方北极中天紫微大帝



南方南极长生大帝



西方太极天皇大帝



东方东极青华大帝太乙救苦天尊



承天效法后土皇地祇

五方五老:



南方南极观音



东方崇恩圣帝



东华大帝君



玄灵斗姆元君



黄极黄角大仙

中央天宫仙位表:

千里眼 | 顺风耳 | 金童 | 玉女 | 雷公 | 电母 (金光圣母) | 风伯 | 雨师 |
游奕灵官 | 翊圣真君 | 大力鬼王 | 七仙女 | 太白金星 | 赤脚大仙 |
广寒仙子 (姮娥仙子) 嫦娥 | 玉兔 | 玉蟾 | 吴刚 | 天蓬元帅 | 天佑元帅 |
九天玄女 | 十二金钗 | 九曜星 | 日游神 | 夜游神 | 太阴星君 | 太阳星君 |
武德星君 | 佑圣真君 托塔天王李靖 | 木吒 (行者惠岸) | 天聋 | 地哑
三坛海会大神哪吒 | 巨灵神 | 月老 | 左辅右弼 | 二郎神杨戩 | 金吒
太乙雷声应化天尊王善王灵官 | 萨真人 | 紫阳真人(张伯端) | 文昌帝君 |

三官大帝:



水官



天官



地官

Taoist mythology

Deities are arranged in a hierarchy

四大天王:



增长天王



持国天王



多闻天王



广目天王

四大天师:



张道陵、许逊、邱弘济、葛洪

四方神:



青龙孟章神君、白虎监兵神君、朱雀陵光神君、玄武执明神君。

四渎龙神:



黄河 | 长江 | 淮河 | 济水河神

五方谒谛:



金光谒谛、银头谒谛、波罗谒谛、波罗僧谒谛、摩诃谒谛 @阿吉说点事

五斗星君:

东斗星君 | 西斗星君 | 中斗星君 | 南斗星君 | 北斗星君

六丁六甲:

六丁为: 阴神玉女 | 丁卯神司马卿 | 丁巳神崔巨卿 | 丁未神石叔通 |

丁酉神臧文公 | 丁亥神张文通 | 丁丑神赵子玉

六甲为: 阳神玉男 | 甲子神王文卿 | 甲戌神展子江 | 甲申神扈文长 |

甲午神卫玉卿 | 甲辰神孟非卿 | 甲寅神明文章

南斗六星君:

第一天府宫: 司命星君

第二天相宫: 司禄星君

第三天梁宫: 延寿星君

第四天同宫: 益算星君

第五天枢宫: 度厄星君

第六天机宫: 上生星君

北斗七星君:

北斗第一阳明贪狼星君

北斗第二阴精巨门星君

北斗第三真人禄存星君

北斗第四玄冥文曲星君

北斗第五丹元廉贞星君

北斗第六北极武曲星君

北斗第七天关破军星君

Taoist mythology

Deities are arranged in a hierarchy

三十六天将

蒋光 | 钟英 | 金游 | 殷郊 | 庞煜 | 刘吉 | 关羽 | 马胜 | 温琼 | 王善 | 康应 |
朱彦 | 吕魁 | 方角 | 耿通 | 邓伯温 | 辛汉臣 | 张元伯 | 陶元信 | 荀雷吉 |
毕宗远 | 赵公明 | 吴明远 | 李青天 | 梅天顺 | 熊光显 | 石远信 | 孔雷结 |
陈元远 | 林大华 | 周青远 | 纪雷刚 | 崔志旭 | 江飞捷 | 贺天祥 | 高克



八仙:

铁拐李、汉钟离、吕洞宾、何仙姑、蓝采和、韩湘子、曹国舅、张果老



九曜星:



金星 | 木星 | 水星 | 火星 | 土星 | 罗喉(蚀星) | 计都星 | 紫炁星 | 月孛星

二十八星宿:

亢金龙、女土蝠、房日兔、心月狐、尾火虎、箕水豹、斗木獬、牛金牛、
氐土貉、虚日鼠、危月燕、室火猪、壁水獮、奎木狼、娄金狗、胃土雉、
昴日鸡、毕月乌、觜火猴、参水猿、井木犴、鬼金羊、柳土獐、星日马、
张月鹿、翼火蛇、轸水蚓、角木蛟

Taoist mythology

Deities created the heaven(founder and chairmen of the board)

The Three Pure Ones (三清)

“道生一，一生二，二生三，三生万物，万物负阴而抱阳，冲气以为和。”
(《道德经》第四十二章)

道(无极) ⇨ 混沌元气(太极) ⇨ 阴阳二气, 阴阳之相和 ⇨ 天下万物



太清
道德天尊

太上老君

玉清
元始天尊

灵宝天尊

上清
灵宝天尊

太上道君

The Jade Emperor

The Jade Emperor is the Taoist ruler of Heaven and all realms of existence including that of Man and Hell.



Jade Emperor



Sanxing (福祿寿三星神)

Fu, Lu, and Shou are the embodiments of Fortune ([Fu](#)), Prosperity ([Lu](#)), and Longevity ([Shou](#)).



Taoist mythology

Deities

ground workers (基层打工“神”)



Tudishen



Tudishen(土地神)

a tutelary deity (守护神) of a specific location.

They are considered to be among the lowest ranked divinities

Taoist mythology

gods

immortals

		gods	immortals
Differences	What is a/an god/immortal?	the embodiment of “Dao” ...	a person or similar entity having a long life or being immortal
	How to become one?	by the formless force of “Dao“	By cultivating and practicing “Dao” and developing special power
	manifestation	usually spirit(神灵)	human (肉身)
	images	scared, grave, inviolable	carefree, leisure
	People’s attitude	worship and revere	longing to become one
	official positions	usually have their own position and take charge of different things	have no official positions
Similarities	Immortality...		

Chinese mythology

Folk mythology

Ancient mythology

Classics

classification

- myths about human and nature
- myths about Tribal war
- myths of heroes
- creation myths

Religious mythology

Taoist mythology

pantheistic

hierarchy The Three Pure Ones

gods and immortals

immortals Eight Immortals

Buddhism mythology

Literary mythology

Taoist mythology

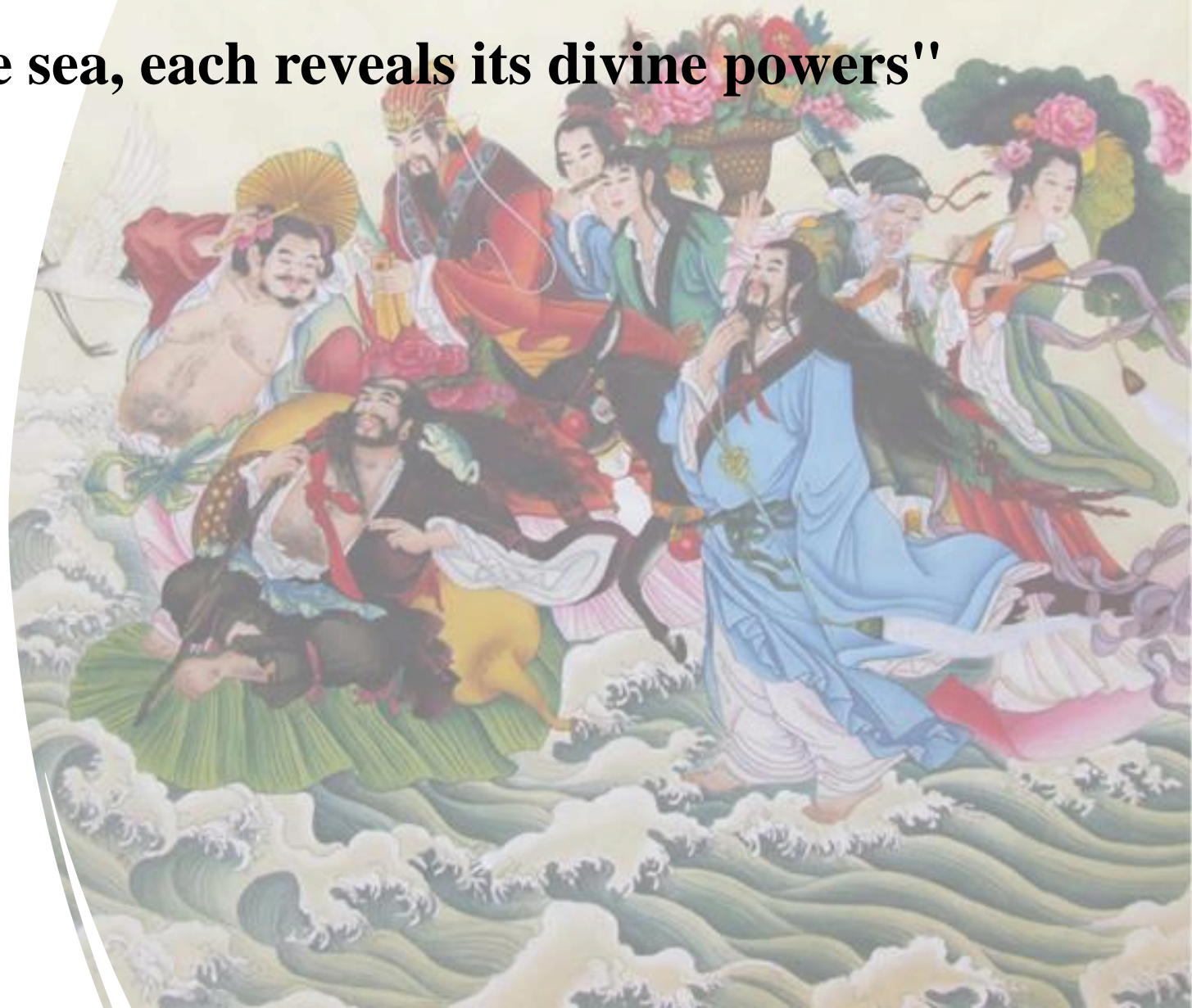
Eight Immortals



"The Eight Immortals cross the sea, each reveals its divine powers"

The eight immortals are very popular with people because

- they all came from come from the human world
- they have colorful and varied experiences
- they represent a large variety of people
- they offer instruction to worthy individuals and assistance to the needy.



Taoist mythology

Eight Immortals

The Eight Immortals are considered to be signs of prosperity and longevity, so they are popular themes in ancient and medieval art.



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god and immortals

immortals Eight Immortals

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Chinese mythology

Are you an atheist (无神论者) ?

As the science and technology are developing rapidly...

gods/immortals



superstition

BUT

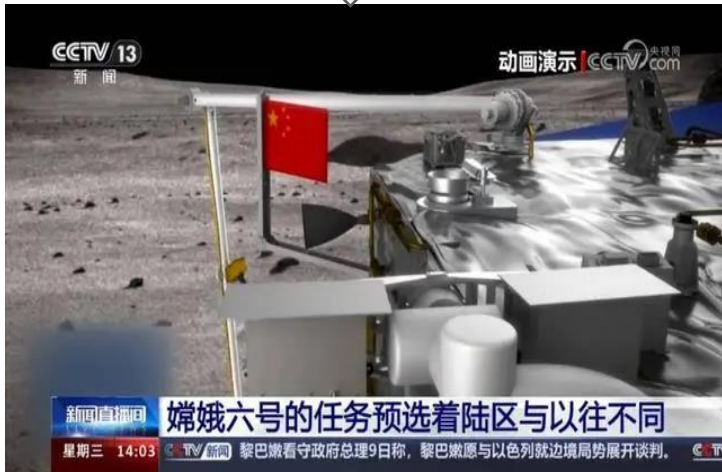
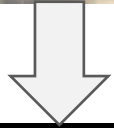
It is still **relevant** TODAY!

- It reveals part of the social stands in ancient China.
- It passed down great wisdom.
- It provides philosophy views for the nature/world
- It of great literary and aesthetic value.
- It serves as the education resources to develop cultural identity among children

...

Chinese mythology

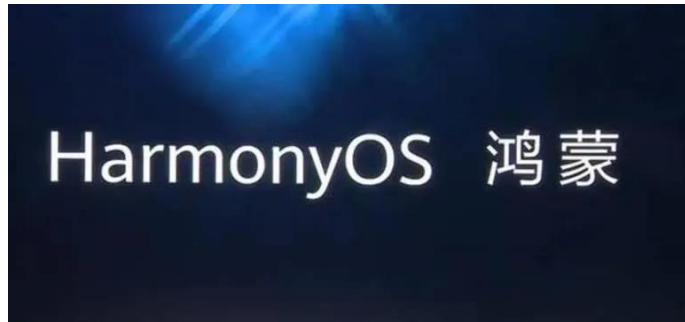
Take a look!



In aerospace



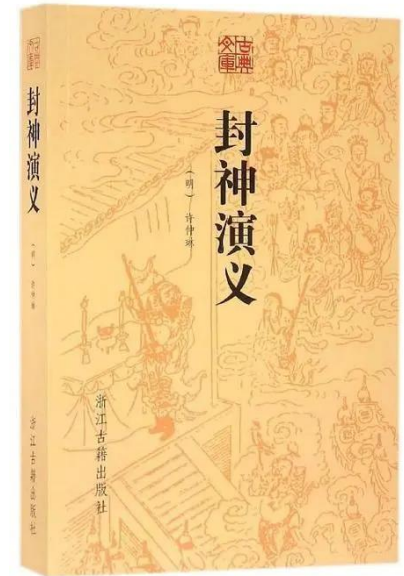
In fine arts



In science



In social life



In literature

Chinese mythology

- We are free to choose to believe in gods or not nowadays, but one thing is for sure, the values behind all the mythology stories can not be denied.
- The Chinese gods and immortals are symbols of traditional culture. They represent the exploration and yearning for nature and society in ancient China. They convey all the great wishes for a better life.
- These mysterious "symbols" have been passed down in the form of mythological stories and are an important part of Chinese traditional culture relics.



Chinese mythology

- We should protect these iconic figures by taking the essence and discarding the dregs. For example, like the proclamation in the movie “Ne Zha: I am the destiny” : “我命由我不由天”， resonating with the contemporary trend of personal liberation.
- This way, we can not only revive these symbols but also share them with the world.



People's Daily, China @PDChina · 8月16日

#NeZha, an animated reworking of an old mythological tale and one of top 3 highest earning domestic films in China will be hitting intl box office. Moviegoers in North America, Australia, and New Zealand will be able to watch the Chinese film on the big screen soon.



82

62

336



References:

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[beliefs/#:~:text=According%20to%20Taoist%20belief%2C%20deities,and%20practicing%20the%20%E2%80%9CDao%E2%80%9D.](https://www.taoistfederation.org.sg/en/taoist-beliefs/#:~:text=According%20to%20Taoist%20belief%2C%20deities,and%20practicing%20the%20%E2%80%9CDao%E2%80%9D.)

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[1] 华伟.中国神话启迪儿童认同传统文化的价值与路径探索[J].语文教学通讯,2024(03):4-7.

