

## The ministries of heaven

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Werner catalogues the celestial administration in a chapter this edition does not print. What follows is that framework rebuilt from the chapters it *does* print: every ministry named in the eight chapters here, with the officers Werner names and the chapter to read. Nothing has been added from the omitted catalogue, and where Werner gives no President this register does not invent one. He states the principle himself, in the sixth chapter: affairs in the Otherworld are managed by official Bureaux or Ministries very similar to those on earth, and the *Fêng Shên Yen I* gives their constitution.

### Thunder and Storms — chapter VI

**Head.** Wên Chung, given supreme direction by Chiang Tzŭ-ya

**Officers.** Lei Tsu, Ancestor of Thunder; Lei Kung, Duke of Thunder; Tien Mu, Mother of Lightning; Feng Po, Count of Wind; Yü Shih, Master of Rain

Werner calls it the first of the Ministries. He adds that its officials correspond to the Buddhist Asuras — a Taoist department explained through a Sanskrit category.

### The Waters — chapter VII

**Head.** no single President named

**Officers.** Department of Salt Waters, under the four Dragon-kings of the East, South, West and North; Department of Sweet Waters, under the Four Kings (Ssŭ Tu) of the four great rivers

Described as the Ministry which controls all things connected with the waters on earth, salt or fresh. It is the ministry a mortal is most likely to have dealings with, and the one whose officers can be taken to court.

### Fire — chapter VIII

**Head.** Lo Hsüan, titular designation Huo-tê Hsing-chün, 'Stellar Sovereign of the Fire-virtue'

**Officers.** five subordinate ministers

Werner numbers it the fifth Ministry. The shortest chapter in the volume and the clearest single view of how a ministry is built.

### Epidemics — chapter IX

**Head.** Lü Yüeh, an old Taoist hermit of Chiu-lung Tao, 'Nine-dragon Island', who became an Immortal

**Officers.** four members, his disciples; also given as the Marshals to the Five Spirits of the Plague

Werner notes that its composition is arranged differently in different works — by the Centre and the four seasons, or as marshals. He reproduces the disagreement rather than resolving it.

### Seasonal Epidemics — chapter IX

**Head.** no President named

**Officers.** not enumerated in the printed chapters

Treated by Werner as distinct from the Ministry of Epidemics proper.

### Medicine — chapter IX

**Head.** no single President named

**Officers.** three divisions: the Ancestral Gods of the Chinese race; the King of Remedies, Yao Wang; and the Specialists

The Specialists are exactly what the name suggests — a god per complaint.

### Exorcism — chapter IX

**Head.** no President named

**Officers.** seven chief ministers

A Taoist invention outright, in Werner's words. Its duty is to expel evil spirits from dwellings and to counteract the annoyances of infernal demons.

### Smallpox — chapter IX

**Head.** no President named

**Officers.** not enumerated in the printed chapters

A separate Ministry. Werner, writing after vaccination had made it largely redundant, suspects its members go on drawing large salaries for doing little or no work.

### Time — chapter V

**Head.** T'ai Sui, the celestial spirit who presides over the year

**Officers.** not enumerated in the printed chapters

Much to be feared: Werner records that whoever offends against him comes to harm.