

Who is who

The twenty-five figures who actually appear in this volume, each with the chapters they appear in and how often. Every reference was produced by searching the text, so nothing points at a chapter that does not contain the name. Valice Press's writing.

Werner names several hundred figures and introduces almost none of them. This glossary covers the ones who matter in the twelve chapters printed here.

The chapter references were generated by searching the text, so nothing below points at a chapter that does not contain the name. Figures who appear only in the chapters this edition omits — the God of War, the God of Literature, the star-officials of the fourth chapter — are not listed, because they are not in this book.

Spellings are Werner's Wade-Giles, unaltered. Where a name is better known today in another form, that form follows in brackets.

Chang Kuo

Chapters XI · 9 mentions

The immortal who rides a white mule backwards, folds it up like paper when he arrives, and unfolds it with a mouthful of water when he leaves..

Chang Tao-ling

Chapters VII · 8 mentions

The first Taoist pope, second century AD, credited with founding the organised Taoist church and with a large collection of magical feats.

Chiang Tzŭ-ya (*Jiang Ziya*)

Chapters V, IX, XIII · 3 mentions

The strategist of the *Fêng Shên Yen I*, who holds the List of Immortals and does the actual work of appointing gods.

Chung-li Ch'üan

Chapters XI · 3 mentions

Chief of the Eight Immortals, usually shown as a fat man with a bare belly and a fan that revives the dead..

Han Hsiang Tzŭ

Chapters VII, XI · 7 mentions

The immortal with the flute, nephew of the Confucian statesman Han Yü, and patron of musicians..

Ho Hsien Ku

Chapters XI · 2 mentions

The only unambiguously female member of the Eight, who achieved immortality by eating powdered mother-of-pearl..

Hsi Wang Mu (*the Queen Mother of the West*)

Chapters V, XI · 4 mentions

Ruler of the K'un-lun paradise and keeper of the drug of immortality.

Huang Ti (*the Yellow Emperor*)

Chapters III, VI, VIII, IX · 7 mentions

The legendary emperor at the head of Chinese tradition, credited with the invention of almost everything and appearing across five chapters as the founding authority.

Hêng Ô (*Chang'e*)

Chapters V · 5 mentions

Shên I's wife, who drinks the drug of immortality and flies to the moon, where she remains.

Ju Lai (*Tathāgata, the Buddha*)

Chapters III, VI · 2 mentions

The Buddha, in his Chinese form, functioning as the authority the Taoist administration defers to.

Lan Ts'ai-ho

Chapters VII, XI · 4 mentions

The immortal of ambiguous sex, wearing one shoe and carrying a basket of flowers; patron of gardeners..

Lao Tzŭ (*Laozi*)

Chapters III, XI, XIII · 14 mentions

The traditional founder of Taoism and author of the *Tao Tê Ching*.

Lei Kung (*the Duke of Thunder*)

Chapters VI · 10 mentions

The thunder god, with a beak, wings and a hammer, serving under the President of the Ministry of Thunder.

Li T'ieh-kuai

Chapters VII, XI · 4 mentions

First of the Eight Immortals: a beggar with an iron crutch and a gourd, whose own body was cremated while his soul was away, forcing him to occupy the corpse of a lame beggar..

Lŭ Tung-pin

Chapters XI · 7 mentions

The most popular of the Eight, a scholar-swordsman with a magic blade, patron of barbers and of the sick..

No-cha (*Nezha*)

Chapters V, VII, IX · 4 mentions

The most extraordinary figure in the book.

Nü Kua Shih (*Nüwa*)

Chapters III · 1 mentions

The repairer of the heavens.

P'an Ku (*Pangu*)

Chapters III, IX · 22 mentions

The primordial giant who separates heaven from earth and whose body becomes the world — his breath the wind, his voice the thunder, his eyes the sun and moon, the parasites on his body the human race.

Pa Hsien (*the Eight Immortals*)

Chapters XI · 8 mentions

The company of eight who travel, drink and quarrel together, each with an emblem: Li T'ieh-kuai's gourd and iron crutch, Chang

Kuo's paper mule, Ho Hsien Ku's lotus, Han Hsiang Tzŭ's flute.

Shang Ti

Chapters VII · 2 mentions

The Supreme Ruler of the ancient state cult, older than the Jade Emperor and gradually confused with him.

Shên I (*Hou Yi, the Divine Archer*)

Chapters V, VI · 39 mentions

The archer who shoots down nine of the ten suns when they all rise at once.

Shên Nung (*the Divine Husbandman*)

Chapters III, VI, IX · 4 mentions

The legendary emperor who invented agriculture and medicine, and who tasted every plant to learn its properties.

Sun Hou-tzŭ (*Sun Wukong, the Monkey King*)

Chapters VII · 3 mentions

The Monkey — here in a walk-on part.

Ts'ao Kuo-chiu

Chapters VII, XI · 3 mentions

The last of the Eight, brother of an empress, who took to the mountains after his own brother committed a murder..

Yü Huang (*the Jade Emperor*)

Chapters VII, IX · 3 mentions

The supreme god of popular Taoism and the head of the celestial civil service.