

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2013
The Culture and Arts of China: From the Song Dynasty to Contemporary
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**Demons, Melons, and the Mandate of Heaven:
Religion in the Ming Founding**

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Study Guide

1. Some people mentioned by name

Zhu Yuanzhang (b. 1328), r. as the Hongwu emperor 1368-1398. Posthumous title Taizu.

Zhu Di, r. as the Yongle emperor 1402-1424.

Song Lian (1310-1381), advisor to Ming Taizu

Han Lin'er (d. January 1367), the Prince of Light, leader of the Red Turbans

Guo Zixing (d. 1355), Han Lin'er's general and Taizu's patron

Monk Yinglong (1359-1392)

Zhu Xi (1130-1200) Major Song-era Neo-Confucian

Wang Guangyang, Hu Weiyong, Tao Kai – officials under Taizu, see *A Tale of Two Melons*

2. Official Religion at the Ming Capitals [Romeyn Taylor, *Cambridge History of China*, vol. 8]

Great Sacrifices (supposedly by emperor in person)

Round altar (south of capital) to Heaven – winter solstice

Square altar (north) to Earth – summer solstice

Eastern altar to Morning Sun – spring equinox

Western altar to Evening Moon – autumn equinox

Great Ancestral temple – south-east of the palace – every 3 months + 1st and 12th month.

Great Altars to Soil and Grain – south-west of the palace – 2nd and 8th months

Middle Sacrifices (presided over by royal family and officials – mostly in the 2nd and 8th months)

Great Year Star (a sort of shadow Jupiter) & Four-Seasonal Month Generals (regulate astronomical time)

Wind-Cloud-Thunder-Rain (Heaven & Earth give life through them)

Sacred Marchmounts, Guardian Peaks, Oceans and Great Rivers (territorial lords who under Heaven's command govern weather, earthquakes, landslides, and so on). The Eastern Marchmount was the chief delegate of Heaven to the human world.

Walls and Moats (gods of all the administrative seats of the empire)

Flags and Banners (the military profession's religion)

First Farmer (Shennong, inventor of agriculture. Imperial plowing ritual in sacred field to grow grain is used in the Great Sacrifices.)

Celestial and terrestrial spirits (catch-all for lots of minor deities)

Historical emperors and kings of the various dynasties

First Teacher, Confucius (and his recognized disciples)

Minor Sacrifices

Five Domestic Sacrifices: to Door, Stove, Impluvium, Gate, Well.

Controller of Horses

Great Altar for Abandoned Ghosts

3. Official Religion across the Empire

Each princely fief had a Great Ancestral Temple; Altars to Soil and Grain, Wind-Cloud-Thunder-Rain, local mountains and rivers, the Sprit of Walls and Moats, Flags and Banners, Five Domestic Sacrifices, and Abandoned Ghosts

Each county and prefecture had a temple to the God of Walls and Moats (City God), and altars to Flags and Banners (if it was a garrison), Soil and Grain, Wind-Cloud-Thunder-Rain, whatever Marchmounts, Peaks, Oceans, or Rivers fell within that jurisdiction, and Abandoned Ghosts. Each had local cults approved by the center, or at least not forbidden by the center. Later in Ming paired Shrines to Local Worthies and to Eminent Officials were nearly everywhere, and there were lots of shrines to local heroes and officials, including some built while the officials were still alive.

And of course there were lots of Buddhist and Daoist temples everywhere, of all sizes.

4. Some deities and spirits mentioned by name:

Heaven (Tian), aka Shangdi, aka Jade Emperor

Earth

Maitreya, the Buddha of the Future

Guanyin or Avalokitesvara (Kennon, Kwannon, Kwans'eum) *avatar* Princess Miaoshan
not to be confused with Guan Yu or Guan Di, a martial god

Laozi (mythical, deified author of *Dao De Jing*)

King of Hell, King Yama – and ten judges or kings of ten Hell-courts

Zhong Kui, the Demon-queller

Marshal Wen

Zhenwu (the Pure Warrior) aka Xuanwu (the Dark Warrior)

5. Some related interesting and reliable things to read

The sutra of the Golden Light, of which the Museum holds an illustrated frontispiece, is at

<http://huntingtonarchive.osu.edu/resources/downloads/sutras/08technicalMayayana>

A guided tour through the ten courts of Hell: <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/chin/yuhlih>.

Another tour of Hell is at <http://people.reed.edu/~brashiek/scrolls.html>

Zvi Ben Dor Benite, “‘The Marrano Emperor:’ The Mysterious, Intimate Bond between Zhu Yuanzhang and His Muslims,” in *Long Live the Emperor...*, edited by Sarah Schneewind

Adam Yuet Chao, *Miraculous Response: Doing Popular Religion in Contemporary China*

Xiaofei Kang, *The Cult of the Fox: Power, Gender, and Popular Religion in Late Imperial and Modern China*

Paul Katz, *Demon Hordes and Burning Boats: The Cult of Marshal Wen in Late Imperial Chekiang*

Paul R. Katz, “Banner Worship and Human Sacrifice in Chinese Military History.” In *The Scholar's Mind: Essays in Honor of Frederick W. Mote*, ed. Perry Link.

Mark Meulenbeld, *Ritual Warfare and the Vernacular Novel in China, 1200 – 1600* (forthcoming, working title).

Mu-chou Poo, *In Search of Personal Welfare: A View of Ancient Chinese Religion*

Sarah Schneewind, *A Tale of Two Melons; Emperor and Subject in Ming China*