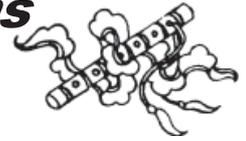


Eight Immortals

Colors Directions Forces Emotions

Han Hsien-Ku (Han Xiang Zi)



Han Hsien-Ku was born in the 8th century AD, and was a nephew of the great Tang poet and scholar, Han Vu. He studied and prepared for the state civil exams, but to the dismay of his uncle, he avoided taking them. Han was an intelligent but wild child who disdained the pomp and vanity of the world. Despite his expulsion from a Buddhist temple for rudeness and mischief, he delighted in stillness and obscurity. He was initiated into the secrets of Taoism by fellow Immortal, Lu Tung-Pin while still a teenager, and quickly became absorbed in the practice of internal alchemy. He probed the mysteries of Heaven and mastered the Five Phases (Elements) of Energy. The sacred knot on his robe is a symbol of his success in combining the two energies of Yin and Yang into the One Original Energy. One time Lu Tung-Pin carried him up to a vantage point on the mythical World Tree in order to show him the universe. Han Hsien-Ku fell from the tree and was killed but quickly resurrected himself. He was very poor, but totally unconcerned about it for he was intoxicated with the love of the Tao. He performed wonderful feats and is able to foretell the future. He was able to make wine without grapes and flowers bloom in mid-winter. One winter he magically grew a bunch of rose-peonies and on each petal were verses written in gold that foretold the fate of his uncle. He is often depicted with a bouquet of flowers. He carries a flute which he plays the Six Healing Sounds. He is shown mounted on a buffalo, a mythical beast symbolizing the Taoist Goddess, Hsi Wang Mu, Ruler of the West.

Characteristics



Color: Purple (Green)	Direction: Southeast	Force: Sun (Wind)	(+)Emotion: Kindness-Forgiveness-Gracious-Friendly
Number: Four (4)	Season: Late Spring	Energy: <i>Great Yin</i>	(-)Emotions: Jealous-Anger-Envy-Enrage-Boil-Fume-Rant
Period: 800 AD	Planet: Pluto	Chi: Warming	Mental: Sensitivity
Known as: Mt. Sage	Animal: Buffalo	System: Nervous	Attitude: Determination
Teacher: Lu Tung-pin	Element: Air (Wood)	Organ: Gall Bladder	Movement: Generating
Symbol: Magic Flute	Climate: Damp	Gland: Adrenal	Function: Deciding
Spirit: Green Dragon	Tai Chi: Pull-Down	Sense: Seeing(Eyes)	I Ching: Penetration/Following
			Nourishes: Tendon
			Quality: Growing
			Produces: Tears
			Seed: Sprouting
			Sound: <i>Shhhhhhhh</i>

Chaun Chung-Li (Quan Zong Li)



Chung-Li Chuan was born in the 3rd century. During the Han Dynasty, he was an Army General (***Marshall of the Empire***). After meeting an old man who taught him about the Tao, he left government service and went to the mountains becoming a wanderer and a beggar. Once while meditating, the stone wall of his mountain dwelling crumbled, exposing a jade box. The box contained secret meditation instructions on how to become an Immortal. He followed the instructions, and one day his chamber was filled with rainbow clouds and celestial music. A crane arrived and carried him on its back into the regions of Immortality. After that he was able to wander among the heavens by himself. During a great famine he changed copper and pewter into gold and silver giving it to the poor, thus saving thousands of lives. He taught Lu Tung-Pin the secrets of Taoism after convincing him of the emptiness of life, and persuaded him to join in his blissful life as a fellow Immortal. He is portrayed as bearded, and thinly clad. His hair is gathered in two coils on the side of his head. His symbol is a fan which he uses to revive and reincarnate the souls of the departed. Over 1,800 years old, he has often reappeared on earth as a messenger of heaven. He is mounted on a chimera, a mythic animal sacred to the Taoist Goddess of Immortality, Hsi Wang Mu.

Characteristics



Color: Light Green	Direction: East	Force: Chen (Thunder)	(+)Emotions: Generosity-Forgetting-Benevolence
Number: Three (3)	Season: Early Spring	Energy: <i>Great Yang</i>	(-)Emotions: Blame-Aggression-Guilt-Frustration
Period: 200 AD	Planet: Jupiter	Chi: Moist	Mental: Emotional
Known as: General	Animal: Chimera	System: Tendons	Attitude: Decisiveness
Teacher: Lau Tsu	Element: Wood (Air)	Organ: Liver	Movement: Developing
Symbol: Feather Fan	Climate: Warm	Gland: Hypothalamus	Function: Controls
Spirit: Green Dragon	Tai Chi : Push	Sense: Seeing(Eyes)	I Ching: Intuition/Action
			Nourishes: Nerves
			Quality: Growth
			Produces: Tears
			Seed: Sprouting
			Sound: <i>Shhhhhhhh</i>

Tsao Kuo-Chiu (Cao Guo Jio)



Tsao Kuo-Chui is one of two royal brothers. Their sister was a Sung Empress during the 11th century AD. He was so ashamed of his brother, who was a murderer and a hedonist, that he gave away all his wealth to the poor and went into the mountains to seek the Tao. In the mountains he clothed his body with wild plants and lived as a hermit. After some time he harmonized his mind, body and spirit until he could easily transform himself into the Tao. One day while roaming about his mountain realm he met two of the eight immortals, Chung-Li and Lu Tung-Pin. Lu Tung-Pin asked him, **“What are you doing?”** He replied, **“I am nurturing the Tao and studying the Way.”** Asked where the Tao was, Kuo-Chui pointed to heaven. Asked where heaven was, he pointed to his heart. Chung-Li Chuan beamed and said, **“The heart is heaven, and heaven is the Tao. You indeed found the truth and the way. You understand the origin of things.”** They invited him to travel about with other Immortals. His symbol is the castanets, which he played in a soothing and relaxing rhythm to facilitate meditation and journeying throughout the universe. He is mounted upon a horse whose spirit may have helped him unveil the secrets of the Tao and immortality. He is said to be still living on earth.

Characteristics



Color: Blue (Brown)*	Direction: Northeast	Force: Ken (Mountain)	(+)Emotions: Fairness-Openness-Harmony-Acceptance
Number: Eight (8)	Season: Early Fall (I.S.)	Energy: Lesser Yang	(-)Emotions: Worry-Anxiety-Insensitivity-Distraction
Period: 1100 AD	Planet: Uranus	Chi: Balancing	Mental: Clarity
Known as: Mt. Hermit	Animal: Spirit Horse	System: Lymphatic	Attitude: Stabilizing
Teacher: Lu Tung-pin	Element: Earth	Organ: Spleen	Movement: Centering
Symbol: Castanets	Climate: Mild	Gland: Pituitary	Function: Balances-integrates
Spirit: Yellow Phoenix	Tai Chi: Shoulder Strike	Sense: Taste(Mouth)	I Ching: Stopping/Stillness
			Nourishes: Flesh
			Quality: Equalizing
			Produces: Saliva
			Seed: Ripening
			Sound: <i>Whoooooo</i>

**(Brown is associated with Yellow and the Center)*

Chang Kuo-Lao (Zang Gua Lao)



Chang Kuo-Lao was born during the 8th century, AD. He said in a previous life he had been a Grand Minister to the legendary Emperor Yao (2357-2255 BC). He was an old man and mountain hermit when he mastered the secrets of Immortality and became **“the Original Vapor”**. He has a fabulous horse that carries him thousands of miles in a few moments. Often he would ride facing backwards. Upon reaching his destination, he collapsed the horse folding it like a piece of paper and stored it in his pocket. When ready to travel again he would take it out, and moisten it with water changing it back into a horse. Many of the Tang emperors invited him to court, but usually he declined to go. He entertained one emperor by making himself invisible and drinking poisons. The emperor bestowed upon him the title, **“Master of Understanding the Mystery”**, offered him a high position and his daughter in marriage. Chang Kuo-Lao declined both offers, then he received the imperial summons to do it, so he laid down and died. He was buried in a coffin, but later when his disciples opened it, it was found to be empty. After this he was frequently seen alive. His symbol is a tube containing wands or **“Phoenix Feather”** with which he can foretell fortunes and misfortunes. He is known to help souls to reincarnate, and even today in China, his image is found in the bedrooms of those who are trying to have children.

Characteristics



Color: Black (Blue)	Direction: North	Force: Kan (Water)	(+)Emotions: Gentleness-Stillness-Alertness-Gratitude
Number: One (1)	Season: Winter	Energy: Greater Yin	(-)Emotions: Fear-Shock-Sneaky-Panic-Doubt-Suspicion
Period: 800 AD	Planet: Mercury	Chi: Chilling	Mental: Spontaneity
Known as: Mt Hermit	Animal: Spirit Horse	System: Urinary	Attitude: Will Power
Teacher: Lao Tsu	Element: Water	Organ: Kidneys	Movement: Gathering
Symbol: Phoenix Feather	Climate: Cold	Gland: Adrenal	Function: Ambitions
Spirit: Blue Turtle	Tai Chi: Ward Off	Sense: Hearing(Ears)	I Ching: Passion/Danger
			Nourishes: Bones
			Quality: Absorbing
			Produces: Urine
			Seed: Dormant
			Sound: <i>Choooooo</i>

Lan Tsai-ho (Lan Cai He)



Lan Tsai-Ho was born during the Tang Dynasty, and became the youngest Immortal at age 16. He is an entertainer, and like some ancient shamans wore woman's clothing and make-up. A street singer and a beggar, he gave away his money to the poor. Always dancing and singing, he walked about with one bare foot, followed by crowds who thought he was crazy. He wrote and sang songs which questioned this life, its delusive pleasures, its ceaseless and unnecessary reincarnations. In winter he would sleep soundly in the snow with steam rising from his body - a sure sign that he had mastered the techniques of internal alchemy. He was often found in taverns buying wine for everyone. One evening, after singing and entertaining, he left a tavern and mounted a crane which had descended amidst the sounds of a celestial chorus. The crane gracefully carried this "**Holy Fool**" off into the sky before an astounded crowd. His symbol is a basket of flowers, plants and branches from trees associated with longevity, such as chrysanthemum, peach blossom, sprigs of pine and bamboo. He is mounted upon an elephant, a symbol of wisdom, strength and prudence.

Characteristics



Color: Silver Gray(Gold)	Direction: Northwest	Force: Chine (Heaven)	(+)Emotions: Righteous-Dignity-Discipline-Substance
Numbsr: Six (6)	Season: Late Fall	Energy: <i>Greatest Yang</i>	(-)Emotions: Depression-Loss-Gloom-Dejection-Down
Period: 300 AD	Planet: Neptune	Chi: Cooling	Mental: Intuition
Known as: Minstrel	Animal: Elephant	System: Respiratory	Attitude: Vitality
Teacher: Lao Tsu	Element: Metal (Ethel)	Organ: Colon	Movement: Compressing
Symbol: Flower Basket	Climate: Cool	Gland: Thyroid	Function: Stablizing
Spirit: White Tiger	Tai Chi: Single Whip	Sense: Smell(Nose)	I Ching: Strength/Creativity
			Nourishes: Skin
			Produces: Mucous
			Quality: Condensing
			Seed: Falling
			Sound: Ssssssssss

Lu Tung-Pin (Lu Dong Bin)



Sometimes called Ancestor Lu or Lu Yan. Lu Tung-Pin is the hero of marvelous wisdom who resides on Stork Peak. He was born during the 8th century AD and is said to still be alive. He was a Confucian scholar who converted to Taoism after being initiated into the secrets of internal alchemy by fellow Immortal Chung-Li Chun. He is mounted on a tiger, a symbol of the sacred energy that comes from the Taoist Goddess Hsi Wang Mu, who rules the West. Lu Ting-pin carries a horse hair whisk which symbolizes his ability to fly through the air and walk on clouds. He is always portrayed with a double-edged ("**Demon Slaying**") magic sword strapped on his back. This sword of supernatural power was given to him by a dragon. It allows him to hide in the heavens and to make himself invisible to evil spirits. His three-part beard symbolizes the three Thrusting Channels used in internal alchemy. He can travel thousands of miles in an instant and was known to roam about China seeking those with kind hearts, especially those who risked their comfort and well-being in order to help others in great need. Upon discovering such persons, he would use his supernatural powers to help them transform themselves into Taoist Immortals. He also took every opportunity to embarrass and punish the rich and powerful when he caught them oppressing those who were powerless and poor. The Chinese masses have always loved and respected this Immortal, "Ancestor Lu". He spent 400 years on earth, and periodically reappears. He is accessible through mediums or through direct communication during meditation or shaman journeying.

Characteristics



Color: Metallic White	Direction: West	Force: Tui (Lake)	(+)Emotions: Courage-Justice-Appropriateness-Boldness
Number: Seven (7)	Season: Early Winter	Energy: <i>Lesser Yin</i>	(-)Emotions: Sadness-Loss-Dejection-Sorrowfulness
Period: 800 AD	Planet: Venus	Chi: Drying	Mental: Intuition
Known as: Wise Sage	Animal: Tiger	System: Respiratory	Attitude: Vitality
Teacher: Hsi Wang Wu	Element: Metal (Ether)	Organ: Lungs	Movement: Contracting
Symbol: Whisk Sword	Climate: Dry	Gland: Pineal	Function: Strengthens
Spirit: White Tiger	Tai Chi: Roll Back	Sense: Smell(Nose)	I Ching: Joy/Attraction
			Nourishes: Skin
			Quality: Condensing
			Phoduces: Mucous
			Seed: Falling
			Sound: Ssssssssss

Ho Hsien-Ku (He Xian Gu)



Ho Hsien-Ku was born in the 7th century A.D., and now she is still alive, over 1,400 years old. She became an immortal at age 14 after meeting fellow Immortal Lu Tung-Pin, who taught her internal alchemy, giving her a precious rare **Peach of Immortality**. Soon after eating the peach, she was able to journey in her spirit body to pay homage to the great Taoist Goddess of Immortality, Hsi Wang Mu. The Goddess delightedly carried her off to the gardens of Boundless space, Ho Hsien-Ku's new home. She was able to cease her menstruation and conserve her life force energy. She also gained the ability to nourish herself by feeding only upon sweet, heavenly dew and the omnipresent Chi. She spent her youth telling fortunes, flying and floating from mountain peak to mountain peak collecting herbs and food for her mother and the poor. She also frequently flew to the mountains to meet other female immortals. She achieved great fame and was summoned to present herself to the Empress of China. She ignored the royal command and instead ascended to heaven in full daylight disappearing from the earth. Some years later she was seen floating on a rainbow cloud above the temple of Ma Ku, a famous woman Taoist adept. Ho Hsien-Ku still appears to the virtuous, the innocent, and those oppressed people who are in great need of divine intervention. She is shown holding a magic lotus blossom, the flower of open-heartedness and divine brilliance, which symbolizes her power and purity. She is mounted upon a deer, a symbol of longevity and ceaseless energy.

Characteristics



Color: Pink (Yellow)*	Direction: Southwest	Force: Kan (Earth)	(+)Emotions: Openness-Sympathy-Assurance-Certainty
Number: Two (2)	Season: Late Summer	Energy: <i>Greatest Yin</i>	(-)Emotions: Worry-Anxiety-Uneasiness-Anguish
Period: 700 AD	Planet: Saturn	Chi: Balancing	Mental: Mental
Known as: Female Ascetic	Animal: Deer	System: Digestive	Attitude: Stabilizing
Teacher: Lu Tung Pin	Element: Earth	Organ: Pancreas	Movement: Centering
Symbol: Lotus Blossom	Climate: Mild	Gland: Parathyroid	Function: Balance
Spirit: Yellow Phoenix	Tai Chi: Shoulder Strike	Sense: Taste (Mouth)	I Ching: Receptivity/Docility
			Nourishes: Muscles
			Quality: Neutralizing
			Produces: Saliva
			Seed: Ripening
			Sound: <i>Whooooooo</i>

*(Yellow is associated with the Center)

Li Tieh-Kuai (Li Tie Guai)



Li Tieh-Kuai or "Iron Crutch Li" was born in the Han Dynasty (2nd Century, AD). He lived in the mountains for 40 years where he devoted himself to practicing meditation so that he often forgot to eat or sleep. Some legends say that the great Taoist sage Lao Tzu personally introduced him to the Taoist practices. Other stories say it was the Taoist Goddess Hsi Wang Mu, ruler of the West, who taught him the art of Immortality. Depicted as a lame and ugly beggar, he was once a handsome and well built man of commanding stature. His transformation occurred after his spirit body went to see Lao Tzu. He asked his student to watch over his physical body for seven days and prevent its destruction by animals, insects, and to stop other spirits from entering it. He was told his own mother was dying, so he burned Li's body and went to his mother's bedside. Li returned on the seventh day and wanted to enter his body. Seeing that his body had been destroyed, he entered the corpse of a lame beggar who had just died. He blew water on the beggar's bamboo staff and changed it into an iron crutch and a magic staff. His symbols are the staff and gourd (a symbol of the universe). Having mastered the five Phases of Energy and successfully combined Yin and Yang into the one original energy, he is able to transmute matter with the staff and concoct medicines and potions from his gourd. He is credited with raising his student's mother back to life using a magical potion mixed in the gourd. At night he makes himself very tiny and enters his sleeping quarters which are also inside the gourd. He is well known to the poor, sick and needy by his reputation for benevolence. He eventually ascended to heaven in the form of a dragon, but frequently returns to earth to help others. He is shown mounted on a chimera, a symbol of dignity and courage, which is a mythical guardian animal.

Characteristics



Color: Red	Direction: South	Force: Li (Fire)	(+)Emotions: Joy-Love-Respect-Happiness-Patience
Number: Nine (9)	Season: Summer	Energy: <i>Greater Yang</i>	(-)Emotions: Hate-Impatience-Lust-Arrogance-Cruelty
Period: 200 AD	Planet: Mars	Chi: Heating	Mental: Creativity
Known as: Lame Beggar	Animal: Chimera	System: Vascular	Attitude: Prosperity
Teacher: Hsi Wang Mu	Element: Fire	Organ: Heart	Movement: Expanding
Symbol: Iron Crutch	Climate: Hot	Gland: Thymus	Function: Vitalizes
Spirit: Red Pheasant	Tai Chi: Ward Off	Sense: Speech(Tongue)	I Ching: Attention/Awareness
			Norishes: Blood Vessels
			Quality: Exciting
			Produces: Sweat
			Seed: Blooming
			Sound: <i>Hawwwwwwww</i>

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