



RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY IN ANCIENT CHINA

- Folk Religion
 - Ch'i 氣
 - Mythology 杙
 - Ancestor Worship 拜祖
 - Five Elements 五行
 - *I Ching* 易經
 - Feng Shui 風水
- Shang Ti (Heaven Worship) 上帝

FOLK RELIGION: CH'I (氣 Qi)

- Everything has Ch'i, a “life force” or “spiritual energy”

氣



FOLK RELIGION: BELIEF IN SPIRITS

- Belief in spirits
 - Some good; some evil
 - Performed ritual blessings to purify space and expel ghosts



FOLK RELIGION: MYTHOLOGY 杻



- Dragon 龍
 - Most important mythical creature
- Polytheistic
 - Chang'e 嫦娥
 - The Moon goddess
 - Lei Gong 雷公
 - The God of thunder
 - Etc.

FOLK RELIGION: ANCESTOR WORSHIP

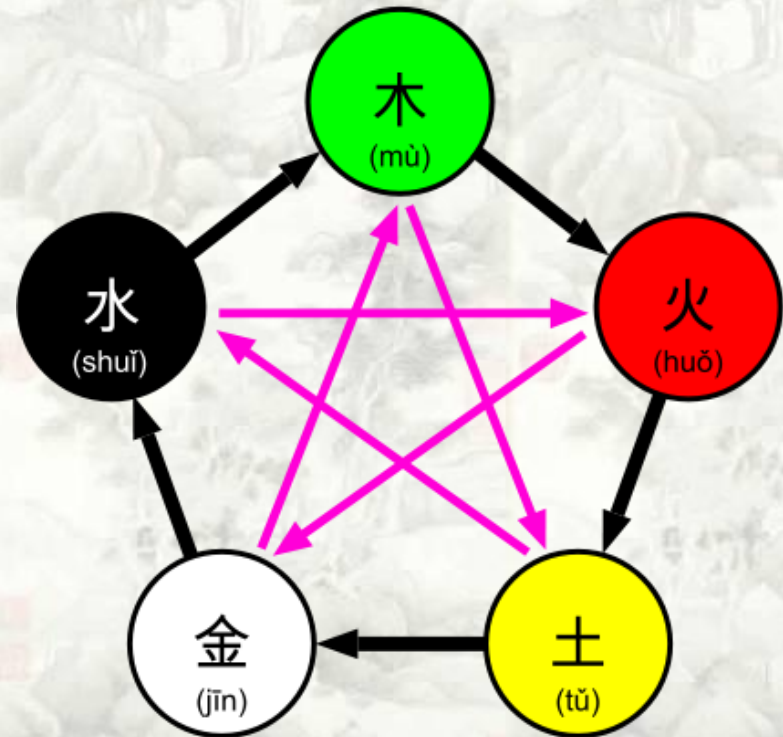
拜祖

- “Veneration”
- Honors the deeds, memories, and sacrifices of the dead.
- Visit graves and make offerings to the dead
 - provide for their welfare in the afterlife
- Avoid dishonoring your ancestors.



FOLK RELIGION: FIVE ELEMENTS 五行

- Used for describing interactions and relationships between phenomena in nature
- The five elements are:
 - Wood (木, mù)
 - Fire (火, huǒ)
 - Earth (土, tǔ)
 - Metal (金, jīn)
 - Water (水, shuǐ)



FOLK RELIGION: FIVE ELEMENTS 五行

Productive Cycle (Creative Cycle)

- Fire produces Earth (ash);
- Earth bears Metal (ore);
- Metal carries Water (as in a bucket or tap, or water condenses on metal);
- Water nourishes Wood.
- Wood feeds Fire.



Destructive Cycle

- Fire melts Metal;
- Metal chops Wood.
- Wood parts Earth;
- Earth absorbs Water;
- Water quenches Fire;



FOLK RELIGION: I CHING 易經

- *I Ching* (pronounced “Ee Ching” – also called “Book of Changes”)
- Oldest Chinese classic text
- Often used for divination (fortune telling)
- A symbol system designed to identify order in what seem like chance events.
 - *dynamic balance of opposites*
 - *evolution of events as a process*
 - *inevitability of change*



FOLK RELIGION: I CHING 易經

- Divination
 - fortune telling



FOLK RELIGION: I CHING 易經

- Astrology
 - Planet alignment
 - Signs of the Zodiac



FOLK RELIGION: FENG SHUI 風水

- Feng Shui (pronounced "fung shway")
- Practice of placement and arrangement of space to achieve harmony with the environment.
- The literal translation is "wind and water".



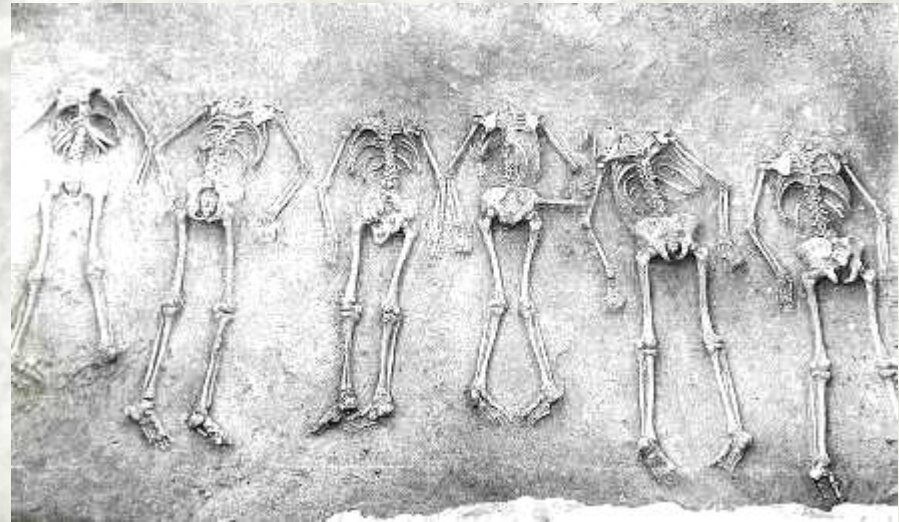
SHANG TI (HEAVEN WORSHIP) 上帝

- Shang Ti is also known as Shang Di or Shangdi
 - Literally means “Emperor Above” or “Supreme God in Heaven”
- “Heaven” as a supernatural force
 - creator (monotheistic)
 - controls weather and natural disasters



SHANG TI (HEAVEN WORSHIP) 上帝

- Religion of the Shang Dynasty
- Human sacrifice – beheadings





RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY IN ANCIENT CHINA

- Folk Religion
 - Ch'i 氣
 - Mythology 杙
 - Ancestor Worship 拜祖
 - Five Elements 五行
 - *I Ching* 易經
 - Feng Shui 風水
- Shang Ti (Heaven Worship) 上帝