

AN BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE THOUGHT AND EASTERN CIVILIZATION

IN 17 SLIDES



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PHILOSOPHY—FAITH—RELIGION

× Philosophy

- + something we follow
 - × A sphere of thought)
 - × The pursuit of wisdom

× Faith

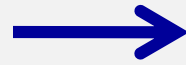
- + fidelity (loyalty/devotion)
- + Sincerity of intention
- + A type of religious behavior?

× Religion

- + belief in doctrine
- + The worship of, or commitment and devotion to a god or gods



ETHICS *(n.)*



MORALITY *(n.)*

- The theory or principles of human conduct.
- The rightness and wrongness of actions.
- The goodness and badness of intention.



- Conformity to ideals of right human conduct.
- Human conscience or ethical judgment.





Conceptual framework by Steven Martin

CHINESE FAITH & RELIGION

- ✘ Chinese Religious Experience vs. Chinese Faith
 - + It may be hard to make a clear distinction...



- ✘ Religion may be a formal doctrine and organization
 - + External: The temple/ceremony/priest/etc.
- ✘ Faith is more internal, more personal
 - + Faith in Heaven
 - + No doctrine, yet there is belief

CHINESE 'FAITH' and MORALITY

- ✘ Faith in the history — vindicated through **historical record** (e.g., legends/scriptures/books)
 - + A strong sense of faith in history (and civilization?)
 - + History will judge your behavior
- ✘ A type of religious behavior
- ✘ Unseen assumption/divine
- ✘ History of family/society/nation

nationalistic
vs.
'civilizationistic'



Veneration of one's ancestors



Confucianism — Buddhism — Taoism

...human to... relationships...

CHINESE 'FAITH' and MORALITY

- ✘ Faith in 'Heaven'
 - + 'more to life than meets the eye'
- ✘ No Doctrine, but you believe
- ✘ Mortality of human being - ancestor pass away but there is continuity of history after death
- ✘ Strong faith and continuity of ancestor worship
 - ✘ The house alter is an external manifestation of religious faith
 - ✘ Protection from evil spirit



TAOISM as PANTHEISM?

“All is God”

- **Connecting God with the forces and laws of the universe.**

- The belief that all nature is God.

- **The belief that everything is God.**

- I am God, you are God, the universe is God.

- There is no ‘supreme’ being.

Universe = God

Related terms:

Pantheistic (adj.)

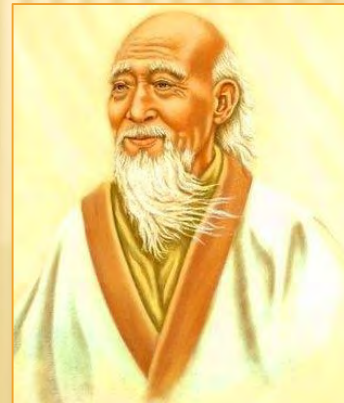
Immanent Pantheism

VENERATION OF 'GODLINESS'

- Natural hero
- Religious figure
- Respectable person
- Medical doctors (protect the health)
- Compassionate person
- A person of 'filial piety'

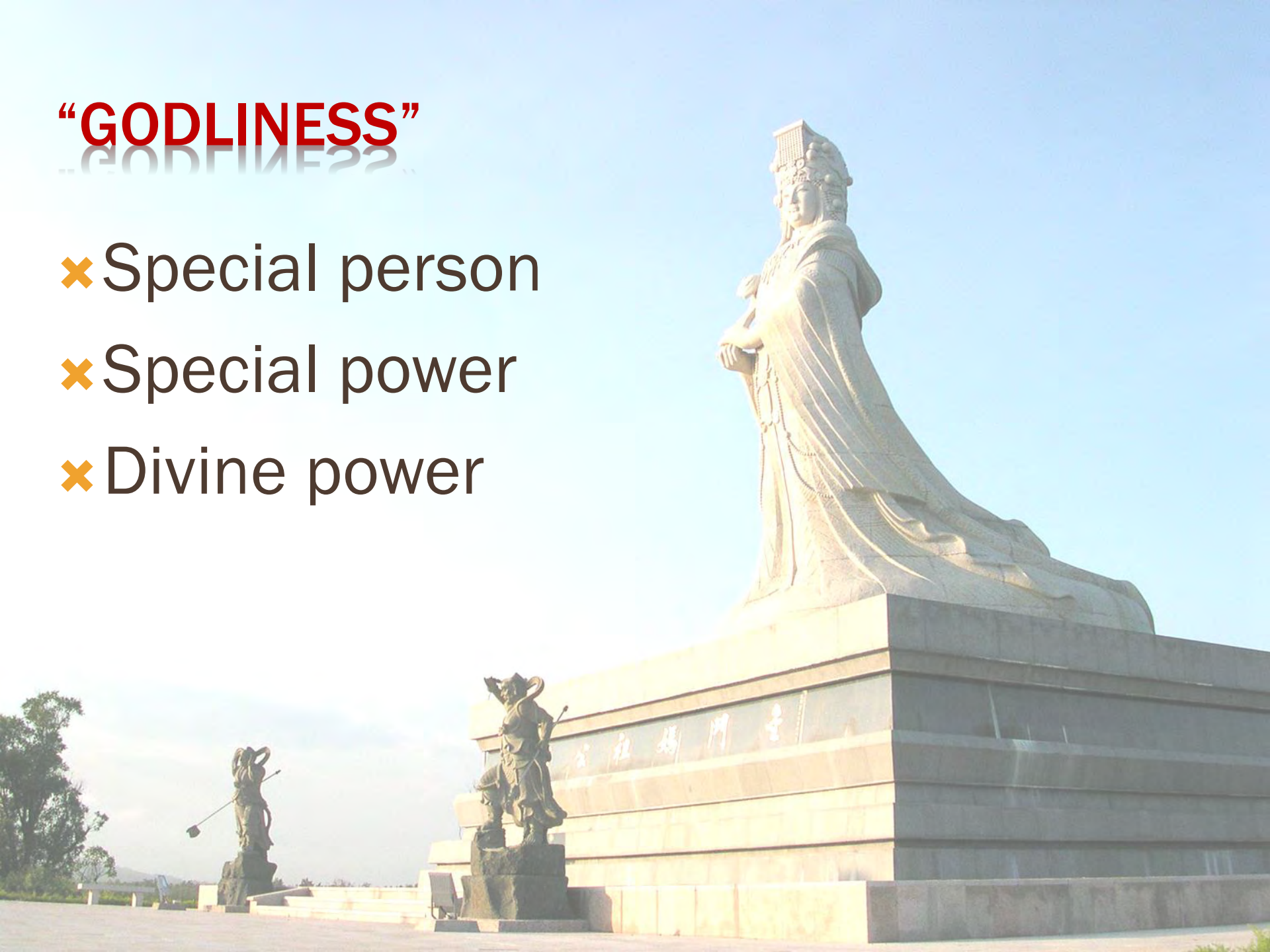
How are Gods Attributed?

- Real people who are 'immortalized' (historical figures)
- Those adopted from folk tales (Folk religion)
- Historic Literature
- Those adopted from various (other) religions



“GODLINESS”

- ✘ Special person
- ✘ Special power
- ✘ Divine power



FAITH FIGURES

Xuan Wu - A Person Of Filial Piety

Xun Wo Kong - Monkey King

Zhou En Lai - The First Premier

Kui Xing - Chinese Mythology

He Xianggu - Taoist Immortals

Lan Cai He - Taoist Immortals

Chang Er - Goddess of Moon

Nu Wa - Goddess Of Chinese Myth

Cao Guojiu - Royal Uncle Cao

Fu Lu Shou - 3 Wise Men

Er Lang Shen - A Person of Filial Piety

Zhong Hui - The King of Ghosts

Lin Tai Shi - The Guardian

Xuan Zhang - Tang Monk

Zhu Bajie -

Li Tie Guai - Iron Crutch

Jade Emperor - The Ruler of heaven

Guan Yin - Goddess of Compassion And Fairness

Guan Gong -

The Buddhist Schools - The Seven Schools

Wu Zhe Tian - The 1st Empress (Buddhism)

Shen Nong - Emperor Of The Five Grains

Mazu - Goddess Of Sea

Ne Zha - Investiture Of The God

Pixiu -

Ji Gong - The Mad Monk

Hian Thian Siang Tee -

Zheng He - The Great Sailor & Explorer

CaoCao -

Qing Shui Zu Shi - Medicine Man

Pan Gu - First Living Being

Shan Cai Tong Zi -

Meng Jiang Nu - Window of The Great Wall

Tian Duoyuanshuai - God of The Arts Protector

Kublai Khan - Mongolian King

Bao Zheng - Person of Fairness

CONTINUITY OF HISTORY AFTER DEATH

- ✘ Chinese family history, family record, follows the male lineage
- ✘ Treasures the continuity of family member
- ✘ Chinese faith is the typical humanism
- ✘ Human is human after death
- ✘ The significant question of “Who am I”
 - + I am who I am even if I die.
- ✘ Chinese give the dead ‘Intellectual apprehension’
 - + Cognition of ‘heritage’



MAZU – THE STORY OF LIN MO NIANG

- ✘ She went into a trance during a storm and used her spiritual powers to save three of her four brothers from being lost at sea
- ✘ She was roused from her trance before she could save the fourth brother.
- ✘ She died soon afterwards.



Mazu

The Guardian of the Sea

THE SUPERNATURAL

- ✘ Gods and Ghosts most often come from humans
- ✘ Folk belief and religious belief come together and coexist
- ✘ **They may also come from the natural world...**
 - Weather
 - Japanese culture
 - Big trees
 - Solid stone
 - Brings good luck
 - Mountains

Xuan Zang



The 8 Immortals

THE 8 IMMORTALS

Ancient Chinese Literature



XUAN ZANG AND "JOURNEY TO THE WEST"



monkey



pigsy



tripitaka



sandy

Journey to the West



Any
Questions?



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