

Practice

The practice of exorcising (removing) demonic phenomena was to be employed by anyone and was not limited to the shamanic specialists or state sponsored rituals and cults. (RAP 378)

The people of the Third century believed that these spirits must be dealt with in order to secure one's health and safety.



Demons: Spirits with supernatural powers to affect humans, some possessing flesh and some being the qi "vapor" or the stuff of existence.



Descendent of Dragons (BBC china video)



Comunities and Reflection

Prior to the introduction of Buddhism and Daoism there existed a more animistic religion, where one believed in the existence of demonic creatures that "often inhabited the immediate environment of the home and represented safety and health hazards" (RAP 377).

There doesn't seem to be any sort of specialized chanting or incantations one would normally expect. But this makes it even more accessible for laypeople to perform the exorcism without the need for specialists who in other religions such as Daoism have memorized an incantation to recite. There is only one mention of people voicing a response to the demons and it calls for virgins to "beat drums, ring clattered bells, and screech at them" (RAP 381).

The previous belief in spirits and unseen powers of demons became incorporated into Daoism in through the belief that there exists spirits within one's own body "the exorcistic element of Daoist liturgy"(EB)

'Religious Daoist)...regarded illness and the presence of demons as equivalent phenomena..."(RAP 377)

Hero Yu is legendary man who cast out the much feared demon Wanghang mentioned at the opening lines of the Spellbinding text. A text with directions on how to identify and expel demons, which is a practice incorporated within Daoist tradition

Fashi (magician)



Daoism's focus on nature and the natural order and that all beings and things are fundamentally one.

Comunities and Reflection

Demonological Literature circulated among the elite of the Warring States (403-221 BCE) and the Qin (221-207 BCE), and Han (202 BCE-220 CE) Dynasties.

Chinese popular or folk religion (faith in gods, and spirits being involved in their lives) is inseparable with their culture and the existence of demons was perfectly acceptable since they too were spirits (EB)

Daoism: "...often serving as a link between the Confucian tradition and folk tradition..."(EB)

Practice

The religion of the gods, or spirits (*shenjiao*)...they are all gods intimately involved in everyday life as givers of blessings or bringers of calamities. Every object or activity of daily life has its presiding spirit that has to be consulted and feasted or appeased and driven off, especially at all special occasions in the life of the family or the community"(EB) [Daoism incorporates older animistic tradition of demon exorcism] Also they change the role of demon expeller from anyone to Daoist priests and the *fashi* (magician) (EB).



My Practice: Drawing Humanoid Figures

Spellbinding Practice: Demon Expelling

Similarities

My own state of mind, emotions, and mood in that most of the time I find an outlet for all my stress/emotions/moods through drawing which leaves me actually peaceful.

My subject for drawing might not be so well understood. For example one might ask where are its arms, why does it wear its shoe on its eyes, etc...

The most important words for my practice are associated with the ideas of color, shade, shapes, and lines to be applied to create a drawing.

My practice is creating something new

My imperfect drawing causes nothing but my own frustration

↳ merely sit or lay down and move my arm and hands to draw.

Both use our physical bodies as our main tool.

Both use various articles/objects: "spew ashes on it...throw a shoe at it..."(RAP 382-3) to expell a demon, I use pens and pencils of varying darkness and thickness to draw.

Tools the people need to expel demons must be created such as teh straw arrows (RAP 384,1), "Make a mulberry-wood staff..."(RAP 382,79), in my practice I create art. Most of the demon expelling is done within or near home, which i where I do my practice.

Both don't require spoken words.

Both knowledge of how expell a demon and how to draw are learned from outside sources; The Bamboo-slip Manuscript rom the Qin Tomb at Shuihudi and Art class for me

They must become involved very physically, in stabbing, shooting a bow, digging, catching, cooking the demons

The effect of their failure to expel a demon would have high costs, lives

Socially the themes/characteristics associated with the demons have been understood and acceptable being spirits who interfere in human lives (EB)

The most important words are associated with the actions one must perform to expel the demon derived from the 'exorcism manual' Spellbinding text

The substance of the demon expelling practice is to restore people's lives to what it was before removed from evil/negative forces

The people having to deal with the demons must be stressed, not content, unable to be happy/peaceful while danger exists.

