

# Origin of the Whammy God

or

(Origin of the Heavenly Lord of Supreme Oneness and Salvation from Misery)

The Whammy God ( 太乙救苦天尊 *Taai-yut Gau-fú Tīn-jyūn* ) is also called the 'Heavenly Lord of Salvation from Misery in Response to Cries for Help' ( 尋聲救苦天尊 *Chàhm-sēng Gau-fú Tīn-jyūn* ) and the 'Heavenly Lord of Salvation from Misery of the Ten Directions' ( 十方救苦天尊 *Sahp-fōng Gau-fú Tīn-jyūn* ). According to the Canon of Protection and Salvation from Misery by Supreme Oneness ( 太一護身救苦經 *Taai-yāt Wuh-sān Gau-fú Gīng* ), the Heavenly Lord of Supreme Oneness and Salvation from Misery is the Great Benevolent One of the Heavenly Court's Eastern World of Eternal Happiness ( 東方長樂世界 *Dūng-fōng Chèuhng-lohk Sai-gai* ). He appears everywhere, in the Heavenly Palace ( 天宮 *Tīn Gūng* ), in the human world, and in hell, among devils as the powerful governor. The Heavenly Lord of Supreme Oneness and Salvation from Misery can transform in response to the kinds of subjects to be saved, into immortal lads and jade maidens, imperial sovereigns and saints, heavenly lords and perfected ones, diamond warriors and divine kings, devil kings and powerful guardians, celestial masters and Taoists, imperial men and venerable sovereigns, heavenly heelers and officials, men and women, civil and military officials, teachers of law and of meditation, masters of wind and of rain. He is all-powerful. "This sage is called the Supreme Oneness Spirit of Blessings ( 太一福神 *Taai Yāt Fūk Sahn* ) in Heaven, the Great Benevolent One ( 大慈仁者 *Daaih-chih Yàhn-jé* ) in the world, the Imperial Sovereign of Sunshine ( 日耀帝君 *Yaht-yiuh Dai-gwān* ) in hell, the Brilliant Lion King ( 獅子明王 *Sī-jí Mīhng-wòhng* ) among heretics, and the

Imperial Sovereign of the Pervasive Abyss ( 洞淵帝君 *Duhng-yūn Dai-gwān* ) in the water realm."



## Functions and Temple Worship

According to the Supreme Appeal of the Three Grottoes ( 太上三洞表文 *Taai-seuhng Sāam Duhng Bīu-màhn* ), there are nine Heavenly Lords:

- 1) 太乙救苦天尊 the Heavenly Lord of Supreme Oneness and Salvation from Misery  
*Taai yut Gau fú Tīn jyūn*
- 2) 十方救苦天尊 the Heavenly Lord of Salvation from Misery in the Ten Directions  
*Sahp fōng Gau fú Tīn jyūn*
- 3) 九幽度罪天尊 the Heavenly Lord Who Saves Sinners from the Ninth Hell  
*Gáu yāu Douh jeuīh Tīn jyūn*
- 4) 朱陵度命天尊 the Heavenly Lord of Salvation from the Jyū-lìhng Star  
*Jyū-lìhng Douh-mihng Tīn-jyūn*
- 5) 火煉丹界天尊 the Heavenly Lord of Elixirs Refined ( *Fó-lihn Dāan-gaai Tīn-jyūn* ) by Fire
- 6) 法橋大度天尊 the Heavenly Lord of the Great Bridge of Salvation  
*Faat-kiuh Daaih-douh Tīn-jyūn*
- 7) 金闕化身天尊 the Heavenly Lord of the Golden Palace Avatar  
*Gām kyut Fa-sān Tīn-jyūn*
- 8) 逍遙快樂天尊 the Heavenly Lord of Unfettered Bliss and  
*Sīu-yiuh Faai-lohk Tīn-jyūn*
- 9) 寶華圓滿天尊 the Heavenly Lord of Precious Glorious Perfection.  
*Báu-wàh Yùhn-múhn Tīn-jyūn*

The Heavenly Lord of Supreme Oneness and Salvation

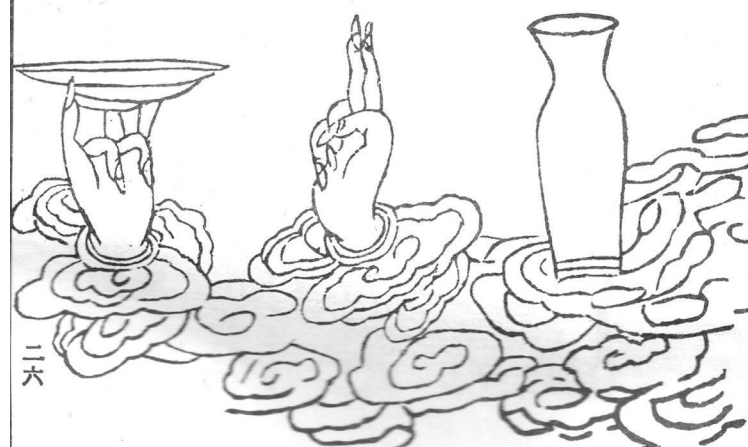
from Misery is the first and chief among them. His role is "to save sentient beings with highest holiness and benevolence, extreme kindness and love, by riding the immortal cart of nine masters and shining forth the auspicious lights of the hundred treasures." According to legends, a man in distress need only recite the name of the Heavenly Lord of Supreme Oneness and Salvation from Misery, and he will get help and relief in response to his cry for help. As for those who have accumulated merits perfectly, the Heavenly Lord of Supreme Oneness and Salvation from Misery will descend on his immortal cart of nine masters and, shining forth the auspicious lights of the hundred treasures, lead them to ascend to Immortality.

Daoist temples generally have a Hall of Supreme Oneness ( 太乙殿 *Taai-yut Dihn* ) where a sculpture or image of the Heavenly Lord of Supreme Oneness is worshipped. He always appears as a Heavenly Lord riding on a lion. Only on the Festivals of the Three Origins, or during Yellow Register Rituals of Salvation, is the Whammy God worshipped. Since the Sung and Yuan dynasties, many Taoist rituals take the Whammy God as the major divinity, such as the Precious Repentance for Salvation from the Blood Lake Hell Told by the Heavenly Lord of Supreme Oneness and Salvation from Misery ( 《太乙救苦天尊說撥度血湖寶懺》 *Taai-yut Gau-fú Tīn-jyūn Syut Buht-douh Hyut-wùh Báu-chaam* ), Refinement and Salvation of the Numinous Treasure ( 《靈寶煉度》 *Lìhng-báu Lìhn-douh* ), and the Lantern Ritual for Salvation from the Ninth Hell ( 《九幽燈儀》 *Gáu Yāu Dāng-yìh* ). In such rituals, besides guiding the sentient beings, the my God is also in charge of Refining the souls of the dead with water and fire, purifying the Blood Lake Hell, saving the souls of sinners from hell, and so on.

上生神永安

羅酆開

功德金色光

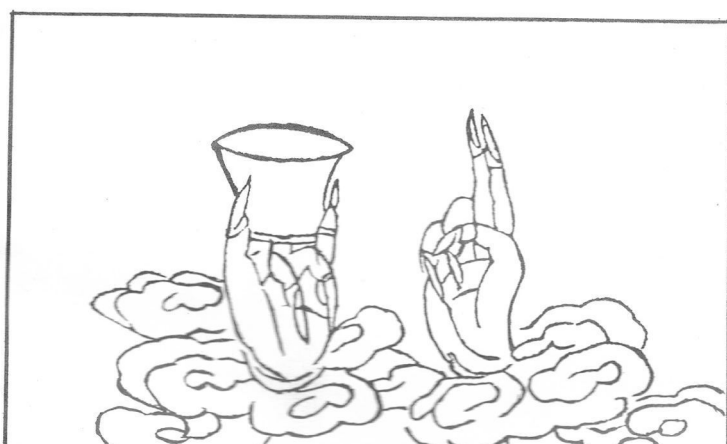


眾當持誦

眾誦

天地自然穢氣分散洞中玄虛  
晃朗太元八方威神使我自然  
靈寶符命普告九天乾羅怛那  
洞罡太元斬妖縛邪度鬼萬千  
中山神咒元始王文持誦一遍  
度鬼延年按行五嶽八海知聞  
魔王束手侍衛我軒凶穢消蕩  
道炁長存急急如律令

常清常靜天尊





霤 霤

日中候華池水滿混合  
吐入水中剔水洒法食上



劍決書盥內存想天上  
月光中神水降下吸入



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