



## Yao ritual painting of To Ta (Lao Tzu)

### Date

early 20th century

### Primary Maker

Unidentified artist

### Medium

Hanging scroll: ink and colors on paper; mounted on paper as hanging scroll

### Description

Lao Tzu is shown in the same compositional format as the Jade Emperor (85.059.001) and Sing Jiaw (85.059.005); a central, frontal figure holding a bowl at chest-level, with a flame halo, the two phoenix-heads with decorative tassels falling from their beaks; the small barefoot figure depicted in the lower central folds of the robe and two figures at the bottom of the scroll. Also the same multicolored clouds fill in the empty spaces. Lao Tzu's hair, flowing down to the right, is white. His robe is blue with darker blue brocade and orange dragons with red fins and green mane. He is wearing a small crown with stylized wave (cloud?) pattern and pearls, and is seated on a dais; in the center of the dais is written the character: (see folder). The two bottom figures are both facing to the right. The left figure is grey-faced, with a fierce expression, and is dressed in military garb. His robe is red with green dots, he is standing with a stick supporting a fierce mask (military insignia?) pointing downwards in his right hand, and with a scroll with four characters in his left hand. Behind him is a green-eyed snow-lion-like animal. The figure to the right is seated, in

grey brocade robes and the attributes of an official, holding a scroll with both hands with 6 characters.

### Dimensions

Image: 46 1/2 × 18 1/16 inches (118.1 × 45.9 cm)