



## Xuantian Shangdi (Zhenwu), god of the North

### Date

Ming Dynasty, early 15th century

### Medium

Ink and colors on silk

### Description

Painted in fine outlines and bright colors, the monumental painting depicts Xuantian Shangdi seated on a rock throne in center of upper half of the composition. The haloed deity has a third eye, wears a black robe, and is flanked by two attendants: a light-skinned male wearing a red robe who holds the deity's sword, and a dark-skinned attendant wearing a blue robe, who holds a black banner over the deity's head. In the foreground are two groups of four divine marshals. The deity and his entourage are

shown within a cloud-filled sky above a plain green ground.

### Dimensions

51 15/16 x 38 9/16 inches (132 x 98 cm)