



Peer Review

Essay #5, Anonymous User submitted Mar 15 at 9:39pm

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Marriage in Declarations of the Perfected

Thesis: Justified by the fated chains of interconnection, the goddess, Consort An, proposed a marriage to Yang Xi in which their incandescent spirits would ultimately merge and lead to a greater, pure, and perfect union.

******I've provided the foundation of my argument and general evidence below.*

*My paper is not complete yet.******

- Yang Xi is considered the medium used by the Perfected to communicate to the mundane realm. As some texts and passages illustrate the way that mediums can connect with macrocosmic spirits and experience improved senses and wisdom, the unity of Consort An and Yang Xi's spirits would allegedly result in an enhancement of the senses and amplified wisdom.
- Naturally, followers of the Dao often seek to achieve transcendence. This spiritual marriage between the Perfected, Consort An, and Yang Xi is deemed fate and appears to be a path towards the achievement of the aspirations of the two individuals. As the marriage is considered to be a predestined relationship by the Heavens, the Perfected Consort encourages Yang Xi to turn away from impurity and the evil practices of the human world. Thus, at the completion of their marriage, they would achieve their ambitions of perfect transcendence through the unity of their spirits rather than the union of their physical bodies.
- Controlling sexual desires and practicing self-restraint were considered methods of maintaining essence and controlling the harmful whitesouls, spirits within the body that seek to interfere with the longevity of that individual. As a result, to prevent harming and straining the cloudsouls, benevolent spirits within the body, and to maintain purity, the marriage between the Perfected Consort An and Yang Xi was to be through the union of their spirits.

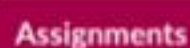
I appreciate any feedback! I'm currently still in the process of developing a more cohesive argument and searching for more proper evidence. Thank you!

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Essay #5, Anonymous User submitted Mar 15 at 11:51pm

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In the *Declarations of The Perfected*, Yang Xi is informed that he shall marry the Goddess Consort An. The way Yang Xi shall marry this goddess is like the aristocratic Chinese marriages of the time. However, Consort An will take the role of the Yang (which is usually seen as masculine) and Yang Xi will take the role of Yin (which is usually seen as feminine). This is because in the Daoist Celestial Hierarchy even though human women are subservient to human men, human men must be subservient to female gods. The marriage between Yang Xi and Consort An is a spiritual union rather than a carnal union.

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