



The Perfect Warrion, Zhenwu

Date

18th century

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

stone

Description

Also referred to as the Black Warrior or Black Emperor, he is associated with the tortoise and serpent, which symbolize the north. Unlike the other directions, the north was never worshipped in early times, and was feared as the home of the destructive god of the ocean wind. But beginning in the Han Dynasty, which ruled under the protection of water and of the North, the Black Emperor was worshipped. The Chinese associated animals and

colors with the various directions: the green dragon of the east, the red bird or phoenix of the south, and the white tiger of the west. The artist of this piece has utilized the black stone, coupled with the tortoise and snake, to provide the viewer with the necessary identification for this figure.

Dimensions

Overall: 7 1/4 x 4 3/4 x 2 1/8 in. (18.4 x 12.1 x 5.4 cm)