

ALAMUT

BASTION OF PEACE AND INFORMATION

JUNE 1999

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TUESDAY, 1 JUNE 1999



THE 250 YEAR OLD MAN

Li Ching-Yuen,
photographed in 1927 at
the residence of
General Yang Sen. Li
died the following year
at the age of 250.

Patron Saint of the Month

Li Ching-Yuen

The photograph and the account below are from a book that I have on taoist yoga, *Muscle/Tendon Changing and Marrow/Brain Washing Chi Kung* by Dr. Yang Jwing-Ming (1989). BTW: The 'official' title for the longest living human goes to a french woman, Mme. Calment, who died in 1997 at the age of 122 years. Her title may be contested. There was a report (05.09.98) that last year a man died in India at the age of 128...

"Li Ching-Yuen was born in 1678 A.D. (Ching Kang Shi 17th Year) in Chyi Jiang Hsien, Szechuan province. Later he immigrated to Kai Hsien, Chen's family field (Chen Jia Charng). He died in 1928 A.D. at the age of 250 years. When he was 71 years old (1749 A.D., Chyan Long 14th Year), he joined the army of provincial Commander-in-Chief Yeuh Jong Chyi. Most of his wives died early, so during the course of his life he married fourteen times.

"Li was a herbalist, and skilled in Chi Kung and spent much of his life in the mountain ranges. In 1927 General Yang Sen invited Li to his residence in Wann Hsien, Szechuan province, where a picture was taken of him. Li died the next year when he returned from this trip.

"After he died, General Yang investigated Li's background to determine the truth of his story, and later wrote a report about him entitled: "A Factual Account of the 250 Year-Old Good-Luck Man" (Er Bae Wu Shyr Suey Ren Ruey Shyr Jih), which was published by the Chinese and Foreign Literature Storehouse (Jong Wai Wen Kuh), Taipei, Taiwan.

"All of the information available indicates the story is true. Li Ching-Yuen's legacy to us is the fact that it is possible for a human being to live more than 200 years if he or she knows how. Because of this we deeply believe that, if we humbly study and research, the day will come when everyone will live at least 200 years."

FYI (cultural perspective): In 1678 Vivaldi was born and John Bunyan published Pilgrims Progress.

A page offered up by Google reports that the monk Li, Ching-Yuen died at the age of 256 according to an article published in the New York Times on Saturday May 6, 1933 (pg.13).

Old, Older, Oldest

Folklore and Mythology Electronic Texts (external link) is a fantastic resource of folktales and links, thematically organized with Aarne-Thompson type numbers which has been compiled, edited and translated by D. L. Ashliman.

Here's a page of folktales (external link) of Aarne-Thompson type 726 about old men, their fathers, and their grandfathers.

Eduardo Kac

Received an email from Eduardo Kac (external link) inviting me to contribute an article on Good and Evil on the Long Voyage (1997) to a special issue of the Irish contemporary art magazine CIRCA (external link) that he is currently preparing.

Vacation Approach

1 June always felt like a special day when I was a kid. I remember walking to high school and dreaming about the approaching vacation. I still feel it is as a good day for new resolutions as 1 January. Here's the Alamut entry for this day last year.

THURSDAY, 3 JUNE 1999

Christmas in June