

**GLOSSARY**

(cross references are in italics)

- Ao Ch'in:** Member of the Council of Five, the dragons' ineffectual ruling body; supplanted by the rule of *Lei-kung*. In Chinese mythology, one of the dragon-kings of the twelve law courts; also known as one of the Yama Kings.
- Ao Jun:** Member of the Council of Five, the dragons' ineffectual ruling body; supplanted by the rule of *Lei-kung*. In Chinese mythology, one of the dragon-kings of the twelve law courts; also known as one of the Yama Kings.
- Ao Kuang:** Member of the Council of Five, the dragons' ineffectual ruling body; supplanted by the rule of *Lei-kung*. In Chinese mythology, one of the dragon-kings of the twelve law courts; also known as one of the Yama Kings.
- Ao Shun:** Member of the Council of Five, the dragons' ineffectual ruling body; supplanted by the rule of *Lei-kung*. In Chinese mythology, one of the dragon-kings of the twelve law courts; also known as one of the Yama Kings.
- Ao Rue:** Apparently the last of a line of blue-eyed, sorcerer dragons; an archmage; the dragons' animal shaman (see *First of the First*) after the passing of *Kuan-ti*; member of the Council of Five, the dragons' ineffectual ruling body, which is supplanted by the rule of *Lei-kung*,
- Azghun Demons:** Dragonkind's ultimate nemesis. Mindless, hive creatures who feed upon the life force (the will to live) of any living creature. Cruelly, they are drawn to the most intelligent first.
- Barkul Range:** One of Gobi Desert's major mountain ranges.
- Bogdo-ola:** Also known as the Mount of God; the crowning peak of the *Barkul Range*, twenty-two thousand feet high.
- Breath of Fury:** The Gobi's cruel, high winds.
- Buran:** A major sand storm characteristic of the Gobi Desert; creates such extraordinary static electricity that, following one, talc clings to all living beings.
- Chang-Lao:** Boyhood companion of *Lei-kung*.
- Ch'ang-o:** Guardian of *Nú-kua*; companion of *Feng-po*. In Chinese mythology, the Goddess of the Moon.
- Chih-nil:** In Chinese mythology, the Eternal Spinster. One-time paramour of *Ao Rue*, then *Lei-kung*.
- Chorten:** Sacred, Chinese pyramid -- four-sided with a walk way and hemispheric dome on its flat roof.
- Chu ("Chew"), Lord:** The cats' *First of the First*. He lives downstairs with Katherine Krueger.
- Erh-lang:** In Chinese mythology, the Bane of Demons and member of the royal family of the Supreme Emperor of Jade. Athletic paramour of *Nú-kua*.

- Feng-po:** Best friend of *Ao Rue*, beloved of Ch'ang-o. Known as "Quick Stepper" and the Earl of the Wind in Chinese mythology, he is the God of the Wind and carries his blasts in a goatskin bag.
- Fengshui:** The Chinese concept of the wind and the water that cannot be seen or grasped. Also, the Chinese system of geometry.
- First of the First:** The animal shaman; without this numen, a species cannot survive. See *Kuan-ti*, *Chu*, and *Ao Rue*.
- Glitter Sand:** Multicolored sand and a geographic feature to the Gobi Desert. The Remains of dragons who have committed suicide.
- Han Chung-li:** Servant of General *Heng-chiang*; later fancies himself Lord of the *Azghun Demons*. He is one of the immortals (the Pa-hsien) in Chinese mythology and is portly, careless, and of a ripe age.
- Han-hai:** The Chinese name for the Gobi; it means dry sea.
- Heng-chiang:** In Chinese mythology, he is known as the "Sniffing General."
- Janästa:** Indigenous to the Gobi, a flowering plant with cherry-flavored fruit and sprays of coral-colored flowers.
- Jerboa:** Indigenous to the Gobi, a kangaroo rat with muscular hind legs and strong tail; moves in rapid, strong, and erratic jumps; a favorite prey of the Gobi's cats because of its taste and sport.
- Jujube:** Flowering plant indigenous to the Gobi.
- Kaochang:** Any meeting or meeting place.
- K'u-ch'u-ch'iao:** Chinese concept of the Bridge of Pain, a rite of passage.
- Kuan-ti:** *Ao Rue's* mentor and, at one time, the dragons' *First of the First*. In Chinese mythology, he is the god of war, the protector and judge of the people, and the teller of the future.
- Lei-kung:** In Chinese mythology, the repulsively ugly Lord of Thunder.
- Lu-hsing:** The Chinese God of Salaries.
- Lui-ing:** The Chinese name for earthquake and the God of Earthquakes.
- Mei-chou:** *Ao Rue's* guide and companion. In Chinese mythology, a female singer, known as the White Peony, who was reincarnated in a variety of forms. Often depicted as sitting on a white lotus, she is also the guide of lost ships.
- Mi-hun-t'ang:** In Chinese mythology, the Broth of Oblivion.
- Mount of God:** See *Bogdo-ola*
- Nü-kua:** Ward of *Ch'ang-o*, Beloved of *Ao Rue*, and the mate of *Erh-lang*. In Chinese mythology, she is known as the Tamer of Beasts.
- Pita** ("Pee-ta"): *Chu's* mate, she lives downstairs with Katherine Krueger.
- Shen-Tu:** In Chinese mythology, he is one of the two guardians of the door to hell who prevents the spirits from escaping and troubling the living. See also *Yü-lü*.
- Shin-tien Yen-wang:** In Chinese mythology, the dragon-kings of the twelve law courts; also known as the Yama Kings.

**Ti-Tsang Wang-P'u-sa:** In Chinese mythology, the merciful saver of the souls in hell; one of the great spell makers; an archmage.

**Thoth** ("Toe-th" or "Ta-th"): *Nü-kua's* pet name for *Ao Rue*. In Egyptian mythology, the moon-god; the patron of science and literature, wisdom and invention; and the gods' scribe and messenger.

**Tu-suan Way:** Considered very admirable by the Chinese and this novel's cats. It means to complete, calculate, think out, arrange ahead, organize and/or consider carefully.

**Wen Ch'ang:** In Chinese mythology, the often-reincarnated God of Literature. Here, he is the "champeen" rhymers.

**Yülü:** In Chinese mythology, he is one of the two guardians of the door to hell who prevents the spirits from escaping and troubling the living. See also *Shen-tu*.

**Yün-t'ung:** In Chinese mythology, the "piler of clouds." Here, she is the nurturer and the Guardian of the Young; appointed as dragonkind's first teacher by *Lei-kung*.

**Yolbas:** In Chinese mythology, the Tiger Prince.