

VOTIVE MARBLE

Representing a triad: in the center the deified Lao-tse (thus designated in the inscription), founder of Taoism, holding a lotus, and surrounded by two attendants standing on lotuses. In the panel below, two lions guard a censer, a motive derived from Buddhist art. The two figures of men and two of women engraved on the small sides represent the donors who dedicated this sculpture to a temple. The votive inscription yields the date A.D. 564.

PEI CHOU (NORTHERN CHOU) DYNASTY

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