

GUARDIAN OF THE WORLD

One of the so-called four great kings who are each posted at the four sides of the world mountain Sumeru. They are generals commanding huge armies, protecting the world and acting as defenders of the Buddhist faith. This marble torso is vigorously modeled with well developed tense muscles under the influence of Indian statuary; even the arteries are forcibly brought out to symbolize the supernatural strength of this guardian deity. Excavated in the prefecture of Fung-siang, Shensi Province.

T'ANG PERIOD (A.D. 618-906)

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