

Eric and Eli look at the most common type of protagonist in wuxia stories: the xia, or knight errant. They examine the codes and conduct of the knight errant by examining the characters of Five Deadly Venoms and The Legend of Drunken Master.

[An Introduction to the Wuxia Genre](#)

[Five Deadly Venoms](#)

[The Legend of Drunken Master](#)

[Show Notes](#)

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Episode 01: The Xia/The Knight-Errant

- Research
 - The Xia/Knight-Errant: driven by “codes;” soft independence from society; larger than life/highly influential
 - Xia scale of influence is larger than anyone else; you are heroes: you change the world
 - Xia get magnified responses to their actions
 - What happens when something makes a Xia’s value flip?
 - [Knightly Codes and Flaws](#)
 - Xia (Chivalry/Boorishness)
 - Hao (Gallantry/Cowardice)
 - [Li](#) (Decorum/Irreverence)
 - [Yi](#) (Wisdom/Ignorance)
 - Zhong (Loyalty/Treachery)
 - The Knight-Errant’s power and how it is acquired (schools and styles)
 - Styles (community and direction)
 - Special Techniques=Disguise Destroyers; power increases within Jianghu
 - Martial Lineage=Disguise Destroyers; knowledge reveals personality/technique details
 - Intrinsically tied to personality
 - Five Venoms: Unique Technique for each Xia; web of specialties make up the style
 - Drunken Master 2: “kung fu” = small reputation/injured pride; “school style” = medium rep/injured body; “fully unlocked” = huge rep/death
- Gameable Ideas
 - Attributes: pick 2 Codes as “Virtues,” pick 1 Code’s antonym as “Vice;” narrative pulls etc.
 - [Advancement:](#)

- 3 levels of apprenticeship under master; 2 years of partnership alongside master; then freedom to act alone
 - “1st Chamber”=defeated single 1st chamber enemy at once; “10th chamber”=defeated 10 enemies of 1st chamber at once
 - Opponent(s) equal/lower than current chamber=tactical combat, not random (no dice?)
- References
 - Jared Sorensen’s [Big 3](#)
 - Five Deadly Venoms ([imdb](#))
 - Legend of Drunken Master ([imdb](#))
 - A Definition of Wuxia and Xia [essay](#)
 - Jiang Hu and Codes [wiki](#)
 - Melodrama [wiki](#)
 - Dogs in the Vineyard [game](#)
 - Duel of the Century ([imdb](#))
 - Wong Fei-hung [wiki](#)
 - Fiasco [game](#)
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