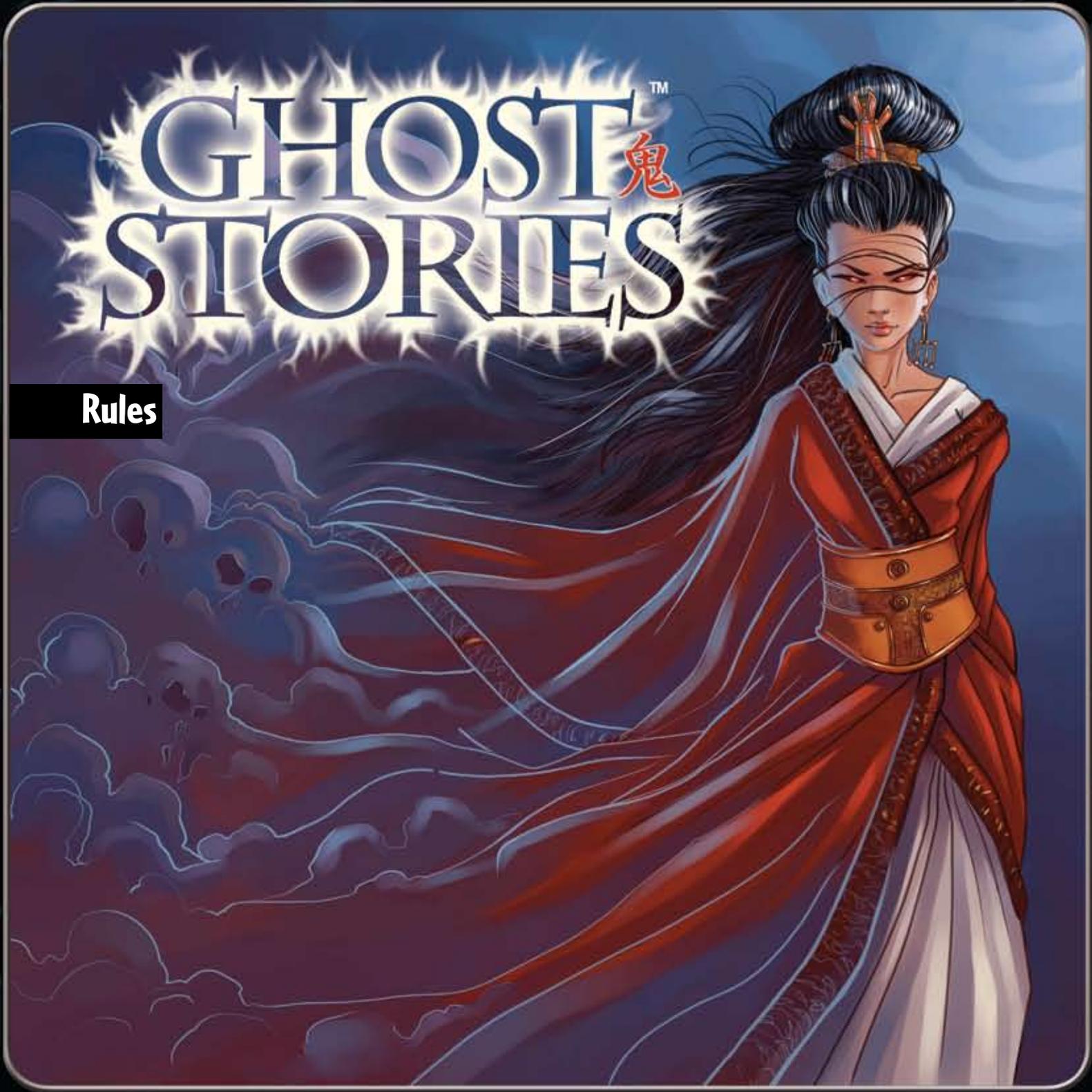


# GHOST STORIES™

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Rules



## Ghost Stories

A game by Antoine Bauza for 1 to 4 players, aged 12 and up.

Many fell, putting an end to the reign of terror of Wu-Feng, Lord of the Nine Hells. The funerary urn housing his ashes was buried in the cemetery of a village in the Middle Empire. Years have elapsed, and the cursed legacy has been forgotten by the living.

Hidden away in hell, Wu-Feng has forgotten nothing. His incessant search allowed him to locate the receptacle. The shadow of his former incarnation already extends to the villagers, who are unaware of the threat.

Fortunately, the Fat-Si (Taoist priests) keep watch, guarding the border between the dead and the living. Armed with their courage, their faith, and their powers, they are dedicated to send the reincarnation of Wu-Feng back to Hell.

## Preamble

Ghost Stories is a **cooperative** game. Players play as a team against the game. Either they share a common victory, or they all suffer the same defeat. For your first reading of the rules, keep the play aids nearby: they will help you to understand the game mechanisms.

The rules presented here are for a 4-player game. Games with 1, 2, or 3 players require some adjustments, which are covered in the appendix.

Ghost Stories provides 4 levels of difficulty, namely Initiation, Normal, Nightmare, and Hell. The rules below deal with the Initiation level. Once you've conquered the Initiation level, Ghost Stories allows you to increase the difficulty for a new challenge. You will find the appropriate adjustments for playing the other difficulty levels in the appendix.



## Contents

- 4 game boards
- 9 Village tiles
- 3 Tao dice
- 1 special Tao die
- 1 Curse die
- 55 Ghost cards (blue cards)
- 10 Incarnation of Wu-Feng cards (red back cards) (I)
- 20 Tao tokens
- 20 Qi tokens
- 4 Taoist figurines
- 4 Yin-Yang tokens
- 8 Haunting figurines
- 2 Buddha figurines
- 1 Inactive Taos marker
- 1 Enfeeblement Mantra token (a scroll)
- 4 Inactive Power tokens
- 3 Neutral Power tokens
- 1 rulebook
- 2 play aids
- 1 sheet to record the results of your games

## Elements of the game

### Village Tiles (A)

The village that must be defended by the Taoists is made up of 9 locations, represented by the Village tiles. These sites can provide aid to the players, but may also be haunted by the ghosts. The front of each tile represents the place with its owner (called an active site); the back represents the place without its owner (called a haunted site). The Village tiles are detailed in one of the play aids.

### Game Boards (B)

Each of the 4 game boards shows 3 rectangular spaces to harbor the ghosts that are attacking the village, 6 circular icons or stones (2 in front of each of the 3 ghost spaces) for the Haunting figurines, 3 for the Buddha figurines, as well as a symbol in the lower-left corner that depicts the corresponding Taoist's power. These boards are double-sided, each side providing a different power to broaden game pleasure.

### Qi Points (C)

The Qi (pronounced "Chee") points represent the vital energy of the Taoists. They may be lost (under the assault of the Ghosts, and in few other cases) and regained (through rewards and a specific Village tile). A Taoist may possess more Qi points than at the beginning of the game, limited to the number of Qi tokens in the supply.

### Yin-Yang Power (D)

Each Taoist has one Yin-Yang token that can be spent to perform a special action. This token can be regained during the gameplay thanks to given ghosts.

### Tao Tokens (E)

In order to fight the ghosts, the Taoists will rely on mystical components, such as sticky rice (yellow), silver bells (green), incense sticks (red), Taoist mirrors (blue), and coins (black), all represented by Tao tokens. These tokens exist in 5 colors, each corresponding to one type of ghost.

### Tao Dice and Curse Die (F)

The Taoists use the 3 Tao dice to exorcise the ghosts. An extra Tao die (grey) is associated with a specific power of the green Taoist.. Occasionally, the players must roll another die, the Curse Die, and suffer its negative effects (see appendix on page 10)

### Ghosts (G)

The ghosts are characterized by Color (1), Resistance (2), Abilities (3), and sometimes a Reward (4). These concepts are detailed later in the rules and in one of the play aids.

The ghosts' abilities are grouped according to their moment of activation :

- the abilities in the **left** stone must be applied when **the ghost enters the game**.
- the abilities in the **central** stone must be applied **each turn (Yin phase)**.
- the abilities in the **right** stone must be applied **when the ghost is exorcised** (see Curse and Reward).

If a ghost has several abilities, they are applied from left to right.

Example: (a) Haunt one tile upon arrival, (b) haunt one tile each turn, (c) haunt one tile when exorcised.

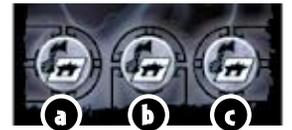
**When a ghost is discarded, its abilities are no longer applicable.**

Example: Bruce exorcised Severed Heads, so the group recovers the Tao die that the ghost had captured.

### Wu-Feng incarnations (H)



Wu-Feng appears during the game as an incarnation (there can be more than one in upper difficulty levels). Ten incarnations are possible. They are depicted on the red back cards, being also recognized by the Wu-Feng symbol below the resistance. Each incarnation is characterized by its own capacities, as explained later.



## Buddha and Haunting Figurines (i)

The Haunting figurines represent the Ghosts' menace to the village, and the Buddha figurines represent the mystical traps that the Taoists can set.

## Setup (Initiation level, 4-player game)

Randomly arrange the 9 Village tiles to form a 3 x 3 square. At the beginning of the game, no locations are haunted, so the villagers are visible.

Place the 4 game boards along the sides of the square of Village tiles so that each one faces a player. Randomly assign each player a color, and for each player, randomly determine which side of his board to use.

Each player takes 4 Qi tokens, the Yin-Yang token in his color, a Tao token in his color, and places the Taoist figurine of his color on the central tile of the village.

Place the 2 Buddha figurines on the "Buddhist Temple" Village tile.

The remaining material (Tao tokens, Qi tokens, figurines) constitutes the supply.

### One of the players prepares the Ghost deck:

- Take one among the 10 Wu-Feng cards at random, without looking at the cards.
- Shuffle the Ghost cards.
- To finalize the deck, take 10 Ghost cards, place the randomly selected WU-Feng card on them, and cover with the rest of the Ghost cards

Therefore, the deck is sequentially constituted as follows: 45 Ghost cards, 1 Wu-Feng incarnation card, and 10 Ghost cards.

## Goal of the Game

In order to claim victory over the ghosts and save the village, the players must exorcise the incarnation of Wu-Feng.

## Playing the Game

A player starts, the one who has seen most recently a kung-fu movie. The players play in turn, clockwise. Each player's turn consists of 2 phases (Yin and Yang). The diagram on the last page of these rules illustrates a player's turn.

## Yin Phase (Ghosts)

### Step 1. Ghosts' actions

At the beginning of his turn, the active player announces the ghosts present on his board. All their central stone abilities are now applied in the Yin phase.

### A. Presence of ghost(s) with the Hunter ability



For each haunting ghost present on his board, the player must update the position of the associated Haunting figurine. Three positions are possible: one on the card and two on the board.



**On the card:** if the haunting figurine stands on the card, the player moves it onto the corresponding haunting icon on the board. Nothing else happens.



**On the board:** If the figurine is already on the first haunting icon of the board, it is then moved onto the haunted tile icon at the edge of the board, and the corresponding tile becomes haunted. The haunting figurine is immediately placed back onto the haunting icon of the card.



Therefore, unless prevented by the Taoists, a haunting ghost haunts a tile every two turns.



**To haunt a tile:** when a ghost has reached the icon at the edge of the board, as explained above, the player must turn face down the first village tile in front of the ghost. If the first tile in front of the ghost is already haunted (face-down), then the next one on the same line gets turned face down.

**Note for Initiation level:** If the 3 Village tiles in front of a ghost are already haunted when the haunting figurine reaches the icon at the edge of the board, the players immediately lose the game.

### B. Presence of ghost(s) with the Tormentor ability



For each of the tormentors (ghosts with a curse die on the central stone) present on his board, the active player must roll the Curse Die and apply the effect:

(a) : No effect.

(b) : The first active village tile in front of the ghost becomes haunted.

(c) : The player must bring a ghost into play according to the placement rules.

(d) : The player must discard all his Tao tokens.

(e) : The Taoist loses one Qi token.



## Step 2. Board overrun?

If all 3 ghost spaces on his board are occupied at the beginning of his turn, the player loses 1 Qi token **and does not perform Step 3.** (he does not draw a new ghost from the deck and directly starts the Yang phase).

## Step 3. Arrival of a ghost

If the player's board is not overrun by 3 ghosts, the player draws the first ghost card from the deck, and brings it into play according to the following rules:

### Ghost placement rules

A Red, Green, Blue, or Yellow ghost must be placed on the board of the corresponding color, if possible. If all three spaces on that specific board are already occupied, then the active player chooses any other location. A Black ghost must be placed on the active player's board, if possible. Again, if the three spaces are already occupied, the active player chooses any other location. The abilities indicated in the left stone are applied as soon as the location is chosen.

It might happen that the 12 spaces are already occupied by ghosts when the player must draw a new one. In such situation, instead of adding the ghost, the active Taoist **loses 1 Qi token.**



Example: Bruce draws Severed Heads (ILLU), and as the ghost is black, he places it on his board, which brings the total number of ghosts on his board to 3. He doesn't lose any Qi token, because Qi loss due to board overrun happens in the active player Step 2, but he places one of the 3 Tao dice on Severed Heads, as indicated. However, he must also draw another ghost, but since all 12 spaces are now occupied, he loses one Qi token instead of adding another ghost.

## Yang Phase (Taoist)

After the Yin phase is done, the player plays the role of his Taoist, according to the following sequence:

**1) Move (optional)**

**2) Request help from a villager OR attempt an exorcism**

## **3) Place a Buddha (optional)**

**Note:** The active player may use his Yin-Yang power before or after any step of his Yang phase.

### 1) Move

The player may move his Taoist figurine from its current tile to an adjacent one.

**Diagonal movement is allowed.** Movement is not obligatory.

### 2) Request help from a villager OR attempt an exorcism

The Taoist may perform only one of the 2 following actions:

#### 2.a) Request help from a villager

On the tile where it stands, the Taoist may request help from the corresponding villager. The actions are detailed in the play aid.

#### 2.b) Attempt an exorcism

On the tile where it stands, the Taoist may exorcise a ghost situated on a adjacent space only.. Therefore, no exorcism is possible from the central tile, and two exorcisms are possible from a corner tile. To attempt an exorcism, the player rolls the 3 Tao dice. To succeed, he must obtain a number of the right colored side (the color of the ghost) at least equal to the ghost resistance. Note: white faces may replace any color, up to the player. If the player succeeds, the ghost is exorcised (returns to hell), and the ghost card is discarded. If the player fails, nothing happens.

**Example:** The yellow Taoist, played by Bruce, is combatting against Bleeding Eyes (Red, resistance 2). In order to beat it and send it back to hell, he needs to



**obtain 2 red (or white) sides out of the 3 Tao dice.**

If the player does not succeed with only the dice, he may spend Tao tokens of the corresponding color to match the ghost resistance and beat it.

**Example:** Bruce rolls the Tao dice, and gets one red side only. If he has a red token, he may spend it to send Bleeding eyes to hell.

### Exorcising 2 Ghosts

A Taoist standing on one of the four corner tiles may target two adjacent spaces,

hence have the opportunity to exorcise two ghosts. For that, the player must defeat the two ghosts with one dice roll. As usual, the player may use Tao tokens to complete. When dice and Tao tokens combination allows the player to exorcise either of the two ghosts, the player may choose which of the two ghost cards is discarded.



*Example: The yellow Taoist is currently on a corner tile. The two adjacent spaces are occupied by Bleeding Eyes (Red, resistance 2) and Perfidious Nymph (Blue, resistance 1). The player rolls the 3 Tao Dice and gets 1 red side, 1 white side, and 1 yellow side. The yellow side is useless. He spends a Red Tao token, which is added to the red side, and exorcises Bleeding Eyes. He uses the white side as blue to exorcise the Perfidious Nymph.*

**Special note: A player is never obliged to spend Tao tokens, but if the dice are sufficient to exorcise a ghost, the player must exorcise it.**



*Example: Bruce is on a corner tile. The adjacent spaces are occupied by a Zombie (Yellow, resistance 2) and a Coffin Breaker (Yellow, resistance 1). Bruce wants to exorcise the Coffin Breaker because it nullifies the power of the board on which it stands. He rolls the 3 dice and gets 2 yellow sides and 1 white. Therefore, he exorcises the Coffin Breaker and the Zombie too. In addition, because of the Zombie's ability, triggered upon exorcism, he must roll a Curse die.*

### Sharing Tao tokens

During an exorcism, the active player may use Tao tokens of **one or more Taoists at the condition that they stand on the same village tile as him**. In no other case are players allowed to either give or exchange Tao tokens.

*Example: Bruce moves his red Taoist to the same tile as the yellow Taoist. The space in front of this tile is occupied by a Hopping Vampire (Yellow, resistance 3). Bruce rolls the 3 Tao dice, and gets one green side, one yellow side, and one red side. Bruce has no yellow Tao token, but Sam, the yellow Taoist, has 2 of them. The players choose to spend them in order to get a total of 3 yellow points and send the Ghost to the discard pile.*

### Curse and rewards (right stone)

Certain ghosts curse and/or reward the Taoist who has just exorcised them. These curses and rewards are indicated on the right stone of the ghost card. The most frequent curse is to have to roll the curse die and apply its effects. The potential rewards are as follows: Gain Tao tokens (the player chooses the color from those available in the supply), gain a Qi token, or recover the Yin-Yang token (if the player had already spent it). **Curses are always applied before rewards.**



*Example: Bruce has just succeeded in exorcising a Dark Wraith (Black, resistance 3). He has the choice between gaining 1 Qi token or taking his Yin-Yang back. He chooses to take back his Yin-Yang, rather than to gain Qi.*

### 3) Place a Buddha



A player who obtained a Buddha figurine **during a previous turn** (via the Buddhist Temple village tile) may place it at the end of his turn, if his Taoist faces an empty ghost space. Place the Buddha figurine on the Buddha symbol. It may be possible

to place two Buddha's in the same turn, when the Taoist stands on a corner tile and the two corresponding ghost spaces are free.

As soon as a ghost is placed onto a space protected by a Buddha (it can be brought here through the „pavilion of the heavenly winds“ tile), it is immediately transferred to hell (the discard pile). This ghost has no time to apply any of its potential abilities, neither those on the left stone nor those on the right stone (curses and rewards). The Buddha figurine is then placed back on the Buddhist Temple tile.

## Yin-Yang

Each Taoist has one particularly valuable asset: the Yin-Yang. Using his Yin-Yang allows the Taoist to get help from any villager without having to be on that villager's tile, OR it allows the Taoist to turn a haunted tile back to its active side, bringing the villager back. Using the Yin-Yang is in addition to the normal action of the player.

When a player uses his Yin-Yang, he puts the token in the supply.

The Taoists may have the opportunity to get their Yin-Yang back by exorcising certain ghosts. The active player may use his Yin-Yang before or after any step of the Yang phase (before doing anything, after moving, etc.), but not in the middle of an action.

Taoists may use their Yin-Yang twice in the same turn in certain circumstances: indeed, the player may lose his Yin-Yang, regain it thanks to a reward, and use it again immediately.



*Example: Sam is face-to-face with a Dark Wraith (Black, resistance 3). He has no black Tao tokens and absolutely wants to exorcise this ghost. He decides to use his Yin-Yang. He uses it to appeal to the Circle of Prayer tile, and places a black Tao token on it. He continues his turn and attempts to exorcise the Phantom. He rolls the 3 Tao Dice and gets one black side, one white side, and one green side. With the black token on the Circle of Prayer weakening black ghosts, the white side and the black side, the exorcism is successful.*

## Death of a Taoist

A Taoist who has no more Qi is dead. **All his belongings are lost** (his Tao tokens, his Buddha figurines, his Yin-Yang, his power tokens). The corresponding figurine is placed lying on the Cemetery tile. **The ghosts on his board remain in play.**

A player whose Taoist is dead continues to play and deliberate with the other Taoists (although he cannot act directly, they still can consult his spirit, benefiting from the wisdom of the departed). He can win the game, even if dead. He may even come back to life, with the aid of the Cemetery tile (and the other Taoists!).

**His board becomes possessed (see neutral board below) and the ghosts occupying it continue to act, despite the Taoist's death.** The steps 1 & 2 of the Yin phase must be played. The other players will have to suffer the effects and consequences of the ghosts on this board.

*Example: 3 village tiles are already haunted. During the next Yin phase, one more tile will be haunted by a ghost with the Haunter ability. Sam only has one Qi left, but in order to save the village, he decides to sacrifice his Taoist by requesting help from the sorcerer and send the ghost to hell.*

## The incarnations of Wu-Feng

An incarnation of Wu-Feng comes into play almost at the end of the deck. The card is placed on a player's board as for a common ghost (the "Nameless" and "Hope killer" incarnations are considered as black ghosts). Exorcising this incarnation is the only way for the players to win the game. Each incarnation has not only an ability, but also conditions that must be met to win. **Incarnations are not affected by the Sorcerer's hut and by buddhas.** An incarnation that comes into play on a space occupied by a Buddha is not eliminated, but the Buddha, however, is placed back onto the "Buddhist Temple" tile.

Any exorcised incarnation affords 1 Qi token and 1 Yin-Yang token to the group. The players decide to whom they assign these rewards. A dead Taoist cannot receive a Qi token or a Yin-Yang token. In both the Initiation and normal levels, such reward only impacts on the final score, since the game ends up immediately when the unique incarnation is exorcised. In the nightmare and hell levels, such reward is extremely profitable for the group to go on.



## End of the Game

The players collectively win if they manage to exorcise the incarnation of Wu-Feng.

Otherwise, there are 3 situations that result in the players' defeat:

1. All Taoists are dead (no more Qi tokens). With no one left to face the threat, the village becomes lifeless under the assault of the Ghosts...
2. A 4th location in the village becomes haunted. The ghosts have retrieved Wu-Feng's funerary urn. The world of the living does not exist any more...
3. The last ghost card of the deck is put in play while the incarnation of Wu-Feng has not been exorcised yet. The players lose immediately. The village will never again see the daylight...

**Remark:** Even if the last incarnation is sent to hell, the players still have to suffer any associated curse. They only win if the application of this curse does not induce their defeat.

**Example:** *The Taoists exorcise the "Death Army" incarnation of Wu-Feng. There are 3 village tiles already cursed before they have to roll the Curse die. Unfortunately, the die provokes the haunting of a village tile situated in front of the incarnation. The players lose the game at the last moment...*

Remarks: Do not despair if your first few games result in defeat. Ghost Stories requires some learning, and you may need several tries before you win for the first time. Actually, the "Hell" level of play will challenge even experienced players, but it remains possible for them to win. Just be sure to apply all the rules, use all the powers and Yin-Yang in your possession, and above all, cooperate with each other. You can do it!

If the Initiation mode is still too tough, you may start with 5 Qi token.

## Score

In order to evaluate your performance and to help you progress, you will find a score sheet in the box to keep track of your games.

To calculate your score, use the following values:

- +10 points in case of victory (in Initiation, normal, or nightmare mode)
- +20 points for a victory in Hell level.
- +1 point per remaining Qi
- +1 point for any ghost card still in the deck if you win, but
- 1 point per card if you have lost the game.
- 3 points per dead Taoist

- 4 points per haunted village tile

+2 points for exorcising the first incarnation in the nightmare and hell modes

+4 points for exorcising the second incarnation in the nightmare and hell modes

+6 points for the third incarnation in the nightmare and hell levels (3/4 players)

## The Taoist Powers



Each game board provides two different powers. For a game, the player will have one of the two powers only, because he will use either the front or the back of his board (selected randomly). The 8 powers are described below: It may happen that a Taoist loses his power because of a ghost ability. He can recover it as soon as the responsible ghost is removed from his board.

### Yellow Taoist

#### 1. Enfeeblement Mantra



The yellow Taoist can bewitch Ghosts to hamper them. Before his move, he places or moves the Enfeeblement Mantra token onto any ghost in play. A ghost under the effect of the Enfeeblement Mantra shows a resistance reduced by 1 (a ghost with a resistance of 3 has a resistance of 2), regardless of which Taoist is performing the exorcism. When the ghost subjected to the Enfeeblement Mantra is removed from the game, the yellow Taoist recovers the token and may use it again from the next turn on. If the monk loses his power, remove the Enfeeblement Mantra token from the game. Particular case: when fighting against multicolored incarnations, the color of the Mantra may be chosen after the dice roll.

#### 2. Bottomless Pockets



The yellow Taoist is never short of mystical components. Before his move, he may take a Tao token of any color among those available in the supply.

### Red Taoist

#### 1. Dance of the Twin Winds



The red Taoist has the ability to guide his fellow monks. After his move, he may also play one other Taoist figurine according to the move rules.

## 2. Dance of the Peaks



The red Taoist has the ability to fly.

During his move, he may reach any village tile, not only adjacent ones.

## Blue Taoist

### 1. Second Wind



The blue Taoist can slow down the time flow .

From his current village tile, he may request twice the villager's help OR attempt two exorcisms. These two exorcisms are independent, which means that all dice must roll twice. The player is not allowed to allocate any die result of the first roll to the second exorcism attempt.

### 2. Heavenly Gust



The blue Taoist can act in a heartbeat.

He may request villager's help AND attempt an exorcism in the same turn, in any order.

## Green Taoist

### 1. Strength of the Mountain



The green Taoist has an exceptional power.

He may roll a fourth Tao die when performing an exorcism. In addition, he never rolls the Curse die.

### 2. Gods' favourite



The ancestral deities accompany the green Taoist.

He may roll a second time any Tao die involved in a support action or an exorcism (he may keep some of the Tao dice and roll the others). Likewise, he may also roll the Curse die a second time. However, only the second result is taken into account.

## Rules for 1, 2, or 3 Players

### Setup

#### For 2 or 3 players

Set up the village tiles and game boards as for 4 players. Game boards that are not assigned to players- called neutral game boards- receive 3 Qi token each.

In addition to the Yin-Yang and Tao tokens, give each player a Power token. Neutral boards are not assigned any Tao and Ying-Yang tokens.

Note: in a 2-player game, the two players must face each other. Therefore, they each have a neutral board on their left and on their right.

#### Preparation of the deck:

At 3 players, remove randomly 5 ghost cards from the deck.

At 2 players, remove 10 ghost cards. Do not look at the discarded cards.

Add the incarnation(s) of Wu-Feng to the deck AFTER having removed these extra cards.

#### For solo game.

Remove 15 ghost cards before adding the incarnation(s) of Wu-Feng to the deck. Take one blue, one green, one yellow, and one red Tao token (no black token). Take 3 neutral power tokens. Make sure the red board has the "Dance of the peaks" power visible (to enable flying). No aid can be requested from the cemetery tile, and the action of the „pavilion of the heavenly winds“ allows the player to move his own Taoist.

### Neutral power tokens



A neutral power token allows the active player to use during his Yang phase the power of a non-possessed (see below) neutral board. Such action is supplementary to his own power.

A player may use several neutral power tokens in the same turn, but not for the same power. After use, a neutral power token is placed on the central tile (whether this tile is haunted or not does not affect the neutral power tokens). When a Taoist ends his turn on the central tile, he may take all or part of the neutral power tokens on this tile. It is not allowed to give neutral power tokens to another player. If a Taoist dies (0 Qi), his neutral power tokens are placed on the central tile, where they can be taken by other players, as seen above.

*Example. Sam is playing alone, practicing exorcism rituals. He controls the red Taoist and has 3 neutral power tokens. He may use all three in the same turn, one for the power of the yellow game board, one for the power of the blue board, and one for the power of the green board.*

### Neutral Boards

Boards without player are called "neutral boards". Their playturn is specific in that only the two first steps of their Yin phase are carried out and no Yang phase.

Neutral boards start the game with 3 Qi tokens. They may lose them but never get them back.

**Important: the phase 3 of the Yin phase (adding of a new ghost) is never performed for a neutral board.**

## Step 1. Ghosts' Actions

### Presence of ghost(s) with the Haunter ability

For each of such ghosts on the neutral board, adjust the position of the Haunting figurine according to the normal rules.

### Presence of ghost(s) with the Tormentor ability

For each Tormentor on the neutral board, a player must roll the Curse die and apply its effect for the neutral board (the green Taoist's power is ineffective for this die roll). Remark: if the curse die indicates „loss of Tao tokens“, you are lucky as this has no effect on a neutral board.

## Step 2. Board overrun?

If the neutral board is filled with ghosts at the start of this step, the board loses one Qi. Otherwise, nothing happens.

## Possessed board (board with 0 Qi)



*A neutral board that has lost all Qi tokens is called „a possessed board“, its specific power cannot be used anymore through neutral power tokens.*

*Any further loss of Qi points (i.e. board overrun or tormentor) must be endured by a player of your choice (the green Taoist's power is ineffective if Qi loss is due to the curse die).*

## Higher Difficulty levels: Normal, Nightmare, and Hell

The preceding rules let you discover Ghost Stories at the Initiation level of play. After you have triumphed over this mode, Ghost Stories provides 3 additional levels of play, which allow you to engage in new challenges by increasing the difficulty.

### Normal mode

The true adventure begins...

The Normal mode differs from Initiation on two points:

- The Taoists start the game with 3 Qi tokens, not 4.
- The Taoists lose the game when 3 village tiles are haunted, instead of 4.

### Nightmare mode

Have you progressed? You are so daring!

The nightmare mode uses the rules of the normal mode, but you must win against an increased number of Wu-Feng incarnations

- For 3 or 4 players:, 4 Wu-Feng incarnations are used
- for 1 or 2 players, 3 Wu-Feng incarnations are used

Discard ghost cards as explained above, if you there are less than 4 players. Then, insert randomly chosen Wu-Feng incarnation cards in the deck as follows,, starting from the end of the deck.

**For 3 or 4 players:** 10 ghosts, 1 incarnation, 10 ghosts, 1 incarnation, 10 ghosts, 1 incarnation, 10 ghosts, 1 incarnation, the rest of the ghost deck.

**For 1 or 2 players:** 10 ghosts, 1 incarnation, 10 ghosts, 1 incarnation, 10 ghosts, 1 incarnation, , the rest of the ghost deck.

### Hell mode

Approved by Wu-Feng himself!

The hell mode is similar to the Nightmare mode, except that the Taoists start the game without their Yin-Yang.

Mode	Qi tokens	Haunted tiles	Incarnations	Other
Initiation	4	4	1	
Normal	3	3	1	
Nightmare	3	3	4 (3)	
Hell	3	3	4 (3)	no Ying-Yang

## Appendix: abilities of the incarnations



### Howling Nightmare

*The Taoists can only exorcise this incarnation if the ghost place facing him on the opposite board is not occupied by a Ghost.*



### Uncatchable

*This incarnation must be placed on a location occupied by a Buddha figurine in order for the players to exorcise it. This can be achieved by moving this incarnation onto a Buddha, or by bringing it into play on a Buddha. The incarnation then can be exorcised according to the rules. The Buddha is replaced on the Buddha temple tile.*

*Note: This incarnation is the only one to be affected by Buddhas.*



### Death Army

*This incarnation is a tormentor ghost. In addition, after its successful exorcism, the player must roll the curse die before the incarnation is discarded.*



### Forgotten Ones

Upon its arrival in the game and until its destruction, this incarnation prevents all Taoists from using their powers, including the neutral power tokens.



### Bonetracker

This incarnation obliges all players to discard a Tao token when it comes into play, as well as at the beginning of each Yin phase of the player who harbors this incarnation on his board. The same applies when it is a neutral board. If a player has no Tao to discard, nothing happens for him.



### Dark Mistress

Upon its arrival in the game and until its destruction, this incarnation prevents the Taoists from using Tao tokens (put the Inactive Tao marker on the board).



### Creeping Horror

This incarnation captures a Tao die upon its arrival and keeps it until its destruction (keep the die on the card).



### Vampire Lord

The vampire lord is simply a Haunter with a resistance of 4.



### Hope Killer

This incarnation has a resistance of 8 (2 blue + 2 red + 2 green + 2 yellow). In addition, the player must roll the curse die when this incarnation is exorcised..



### Nameless

Resistance: 1 blue + 1 green + 1 yellow + 1 red + 1 black

Upon its arrival in the game, this incarnation discards the Tao token on the "Circle of Prayer" village tile. In addition, the white side of the Tao dice no longer count for any color. They are simply ignored.

- |                      |                              |                       |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Ghoul             | 24. Fungus Thing             | 45. Gloomy Minion     |
| 2. Walking Corpse    | 25. Fallen Monk              | 46. Repellent Beauty  |
| 3. Coffin Breaker    | 26. Fallen Monk              | 47. Severed Heads     |
| 4. Coffin Breaker    | 27. Restless Spirit          | 48. Severed Heads     |
| 5. Restless Dead     | 28. Rotten Soul              | 49. Gravewalker       |
| 6. Zombie            | 29. Rotten Soul              | 50. Black Widow       |
| 7. Zombie            | 30. Wicked one               | 51. Black Widow       |
| 8. Hopping Vampire   | 31. Wicked one               | 52. Dark Wraith       |
| 9. Hopping Vampire   | 32. Green Abomination        | 53. Dark Wraith       |
| 10. Yellow Plague    | 33. Great Putrid             | 54. Shapeless Evil    |
| 11. Lich             | 34. Skinner                  | 55. Soul Eater        |
| 12. Drowned Maiden   | 35. Reaper                   | 56. Howling Nightmare |
| 13. Hound of Death   | 36. Sharp-Nailed<br>Mistress | 57. Uncatchable       |
| 14. Perfidious Nymph | 37. Sharp-Nailed<br>Mistress | 58. Hope Killer       |
| 15. Perfidious Nymph | 38. Bleeding Eyes            | 59. Death Army        |
| 16. Sticky Feet      | 39. Blood Drinker            | 60. Forgotten Ones    |
| 17. Abysmal          | 40. Blood Drinker            | 61. Bonetracker       |
| 18. Abysmal          | 41. Scarlet Evildoer         | 62. Dark Mistress     |
| 19. Ooze Devil       | 42. Scarlet Evildoer         | 63. Creeping Horror   |
| 20. Ooze Devil       | 43. Flesh Devourer           | 64. Vampire Lord      |
| 21. Liquid Horror    | 44. Raging One               | 65. Nameless          |
| 22. Fury of Depth    |                              |                       |
| 23. Creeping One     |                              |                       |

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Rue Lambert Vandervelde 7 • 1180 Watermael-Boitsfort - Belgium • [www.rprod.com](http://www.rprod.com)

**Designer :** Antoine Bauza

**Illustrations :** Pierô

**Development :** Les Belges à Sombreros aka Cédric Caumont & Thomas Provoost

**Translation :** Nathan Morse, Revision: Eric Franklin, Pascal Cadot

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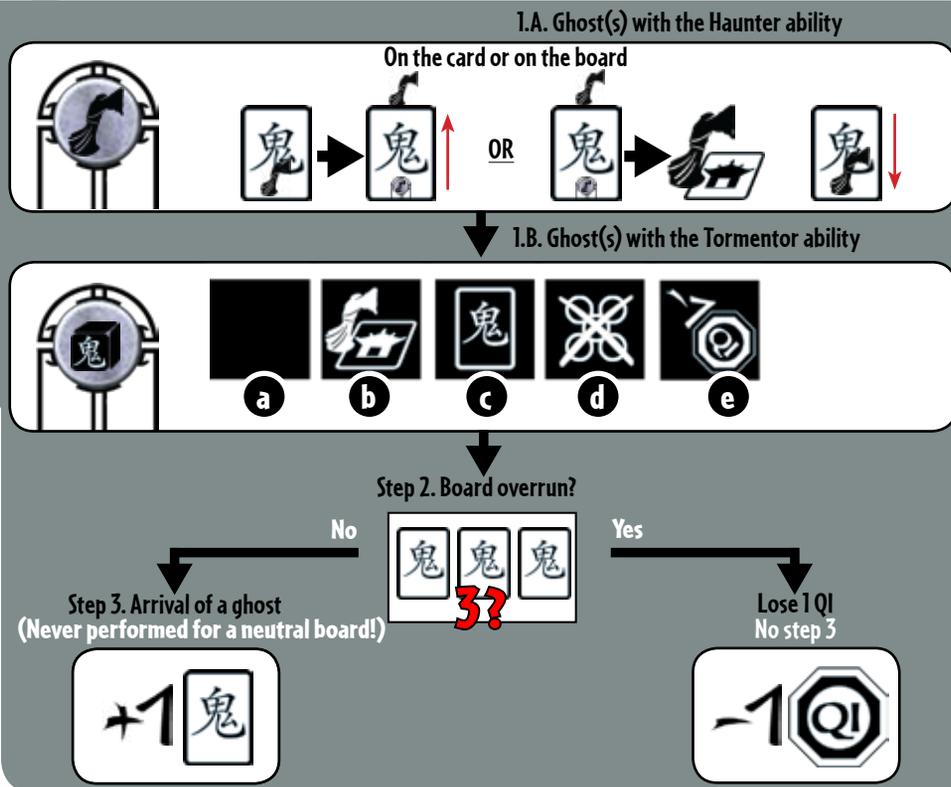
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## Turn sequence

### Yin Phase (Ghosts)

1. Ghosts' actions
2. Board overrun? lose 1 Qi token or:
3. Arrival of a ghost

Yin



### Yang Phase (Taoist)

1. Move (optional)
2. Request help from a villager OR attempt an exorcism
3. Place a Buddha (optional)

Yang

