

Cast of Characters

BLESSING	Second daughter of Mother Celestial and Father Good, the oldest of their children living in the main house.
CELESTIAL	Mother in the main house, she is daughter of Grandmother Worth and Grandfather Ten Thousand, and wife of Father Good.
CHARMER	Oldest of the four daughters of Older Sister Clear and Older Brother Eye, she lives in the small house.
CLEAR	Oldest daughter of Mother Celestial and Father Good, now married to Older Brother Eye, with four daughters of her own; her family lives in the small house.
EYE	Son-in-law of Mother Celestial and Father Good, husband of Older Sister Clear, and father of the family in the small house.
FEMININITY	Youngest of the four daughters of Older Sister Clear and Older Brother Eye.

Family Life in a Northern Thai Village

FINE QUALITIES	The third daughter of Mother Celestial and Father Good; she died in childbirth.
GOOD	Husband of Mother Celestial, father of the family, and head of the main house.
HOLY DAY	The sixth daughter of Mother Celestial and Father Good; she suffers from a speech impediment.
KEEN	The only son of Mother Celestial and Father Good, their sixth child.
MOONLIGHT	The fourth daughter of Mother Celestial and Father Good, and the anthropologist's most important informant.
NEW DAWN	Youngest daughter of Mother Celestial and Father Good, she is most likely to inherit the main house.
PEARLY SMOOTH	Third of the four daughters of Older Sister Clear and Older Brother Eye, she lives in the small house.
RED	Second of the four daughters of Older Sister Clear and Older Brother Eye.
SPIN OUT GOLD	The fifth daughter of Mother Celestial and Father Good, born with a defect of the foot which makes her limp.

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- TEN THOUSAND** Late husband of Grandmother Worth, father of Mother Celestial.
- WORTH** Widow of Grandfather Ten Thousand, mother of Mother Celestial, the senior woman through whom house and lineage membership have come.

The names are translated from Northern Thai names. The name of every individual mentioned in the text is a pseudonym, as is the name Chiangmai Village.

Where a word in Northern Thai has been transcribed rather than translated, I have used the orthographic system of Mary Haas (1967).

