

DANMEI and More: Terms to Know

The novels from Mo Xiang Tong Xiu (MXTX) started as webfiction in China, in the danmei and xianxia genres, before becoming multimedia sensations. Here are some basic terms and tropes:

Danmei: a Chinese fiction genre focused on romanticized tales of love and attraction between men, similar to BL (boys' love) from Japan. The majority of well-known danmei writers are women writing for women, although all genders produce and enjoy the genre.

Donghua: the term for animation from China, used in the same way as *anime* for animation from Japan..

Manhua: the term for a comic from China, as opposed to *manga* (Japan) and *manhwa* (Korea). *Manhua* can be color or black and white, and pages read left to right.

Baihe: the woman/woman counterpart to *danmei*, similar to Girls' Love/GL or *yuri* from Japan.

Wuxia: a centuries-old Chinese literary genre for tales of martial artist heroes fighting evil. Although the heroes are capable of great feats, there are no supernatural elements at play.

Xianxia: a fantasy subgenre of wuxia, with characters striving to achieve immortality. *Xianxia* has heavy Daoist and "cultivation" themes, includes magic, and might expand beyond the mortal realm to the heavenly realm, the ghost realm, and the cosmos.

Cultivators: in *xianxia*, cultivators are spiritually powerful martial artists who seek to understand and be in harmony with the will of the universe, known as the *dao* ("the Path")—a concept in many schools of Chinese religion and philosophy, including Daoism. Cultivation is the general process of training and strengthening one's innate *qi* and spiritual core, which powers magical/spiritual abilities and can make one immortal (immune to illness and aging).

Qi: sometimes written as *chi*, *qi* is the vital energy that exists in all living things, both righteous and poisonous. Cultivators strive to cultivate *qi* by absorbing it from the natural world and refining it within themselves.

Transmigration: similar to the *isekai* genre in Japanese media, where a character—usually from the modern world—is transported to the past, the future, or a fantasy world.



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A man reborn into a novel he loved to hate, a cultivator who resorts to demonic powers to enact revenge, and a god thrice fallen who travels the world believing he deserves no faith—the first volumes of all three series will debut in December 2021 before a rotating monthly schedule of new volumes beginning February 2022!

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