

# New Studies in Chinese Religions in Honor of Daniel Overmyer: Monumenta Serica

This book is a collection of essays in honor of Daniel Overmyer, a leading scholar of Chinese religions. The essays cover a wide range of topics, including the history of Chinese religions, the role of religion in Chinese society, and the relationship between Chinese religions and other religions.



## The People and the Dao: New Studies in Chinese Religions in Honour of Daniel L. Overmyer (Monumenta Serica Monograph Series) by Kenneth I. Pargament

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Overmyer has been a major figure in the study of Chinese religions for over four decades. His work has helped to shape our understanding of the history, beliefs, and practices of Chinese religions. He has also been a tireless advocate for the study of Chinese religions in the West.

This book is a fitting tribute to Overmyer's scholarship and dedication. The essays in this volume represent the latest research on Chinese religions by some of the world's leading scholars. They provide a comprehensive

overview of the field and offer new insights into the nature and significance of Chinese religions.

## **The History of Chinese Religions**

The history of Chinese religions is long and complex. The earliest known Chinese religious texts date back to the Shang dynasty (c. 1600-1046 BCE). These texts record the beliefs and practices of the Shang people, who worshipped a pantheon of gods and goddesses.

During the Zhou dynasty (c. 1046-256 BCE), Chinese religion underwent a number of changes. The Zhou people introduced a new set of gods and goddesses, and they also developed a more sophisticated understanding of the afterlife.

The Qin dynasty (221-206 BCE) saw the rise of Legalism, a philosophy that emphasized the importance of law and Free Download. Legalism had a negative impact on religion, and many temples and shrines were destroyed during this period.

The Han dynasty (206 BCE-220 CE) was a time of great religious revival. Buddhism was introduced to China during this period, and it quickly became one of the most popular religions in the country. Confucianism also flourished during the Han dynasty, and it became the official ideology of the state.

The Tang dynasty (618-907 CE) was another period of religious revival. During this period, Daoism was revived, and it became one of the most popular religions in China. Nestorian Christianity was also introduced to China during this period, but it never gained a large following.

The Song dynasty (960-1279 CE) was a time of great intellectual and cultural ferment. During this period, Neo-Confucianism emerged as a new philosophy that stressed the importance of personal cultivation and social harmony. Neo-Confucianism had a profound impact on Chinese religion, and it remains one of the most influential philosophies in China today.

The Yuan dynasty (1279-1368 CE) was a time of Mongol rule. The Mongols were tolerant of all religions, and they allowed Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism to flourish.

The Ming dynasty (1368-1644 CE) was a time of great economic and cultural prosperity. During this period, Chinese religion continued to flourish, and a number of new religious movements emerged.

The Qing dynasty (1644-1911 CE) was the last imperial dynasty in China. During this period, Chinese religion continued to evolve, and a number of new religious movements emerged.

## **The Role of Religion in Chinese Society**

Religion has played a major role in Chinese society for centuries. Chinese religions have provided a sense of meaning and purpose to life, and they have helped to shape Chinese culture and society.

Confucianism has been the dominant ideology in China for over two thousand years. Confucianism is a philosophy that emphasizes the importance of social harmony and personal cultivation. Confucian values such as respect for authority, filial piety, and loyalty have had a profound impact on Chinese society.

Daoism is another major religion in China. Daoism is a philosophy that emphasizes the importance of living in harmony with nature. Daoist values such as simplicity, spontaneity, and non-interference have had a profound impact on Chinese culture and society.

Buddhism is the third major religion in China. Buddhism was introduced to China from India during the Han dynasty. Buddhism emphasizes the importance of compassion, wisdom, and liberation from suffering. Buddhist values such as non-violence, mindfulness, and meditation have had a profound impact on Chinese culture and society.

### **The Relationship Between Chinese Religions and Other Religions**

Chinese religions have been influenced by a number of other religions, including Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, and Christianity.

Buddhism was introduced to China from India during the Han dynasty. Buddhism has had a profound impact on Chinese religion, and it is now one of the most popular religions in the country. Buddhist values such as compassion, wisdom, and liberation from suffering have had a profound impact on Chinese culture and society.

Daoism is a native Chinese religion that emerged during the Han dynasty. Daoism emphasizes the importance of living in harmony with nature. Daoist values such as simplicity, spontaneity, and non-interference have had a profound impact on Chinese culture and society.

Confucianism is a philosophy that emphasizes the importance of social harmony and personal cultivation. Confucianism was developed by Confucius during the Zhou dynasty. Confucian values such as respect for

authority, filial piety, and loyalty have had a profound impact on Chinese society.

Christianity was introduced to China by Nestorian missionaries during the Tang dynasty. Nestorian Christianity never gained a large following in China, but it did have some influence on Chinese religion.

Chinese religions are a complex and diverse group of traditions. They have played a major role in Chinese society for centuries, and they continue to be a source of meaning and purpose for many people today.

This book is a valuable resource for anyone who is interested in learning more about Chinese religions. The essays in this volume provide a comprehensive overview of the field and offer new insights into the nature and significance of Chinese religions.

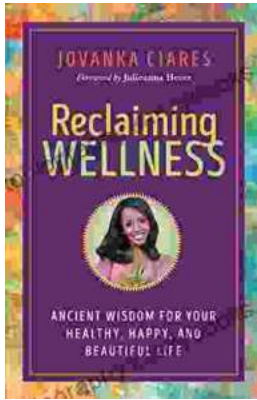


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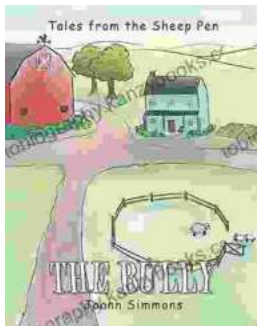
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