

the classic of mountains and seas

The Classic of Mountains and Seas: An Ancient Chinese Treasure of Myth and Geography

the classic of mountains and seas is one of the most fascinating and enigmatic texts in ancient Chinese literature. Known in Chinese as "Shan Hai Jing" (山海经), this classic compilation blends geography, mythology, folklore, and natural history, offering readers a vivid glimpse into the worldview of early Chinese civilization. While its origins remain somewhat mysterious, the text's cultural and literary significance has endured for over two millennia, inspiring countless scholars, artists, and storytellers.

Exploring the Classic of Mountains and Seas allows us to appreciate not only ancient mythological creatures and fantastical places but also how early Chinese people understood their world. Whether you are a history enthusiast, a fan of mythology, or simply curious about ancient cultures, diving into the Classic of Mountains and Seas is a journey filled with wonder.

The Origins and Historical Context of the Classic of Mountains and Seas

The Classic of Mountains and Seas is believed to have been compiled between the Warring States period and the early Han dynasty, roughly from the 4th century BCE to the 1st century CE. The text itself is a collection of various earlier records and oral traditions, possibly compiled by different authors over time. While the precise authorship is uncertain, some attribute parts of it to figures like Yu the Great or other legendary rulers.

Historical Background and Compilation

During the Warring States era, China was fragmented into multiple competing states, each with its own culture and traditions. This period was also marked by intellectual flourishing, as philosophers and scholars sought to document knowledge about the natural world, geography, and cosmology. The Classic of Mountains and Seas emerged from this rich intellectual environment, serving as a kind of encyclopedic record of the known and imagined world.

The text consists of 18 sections, covering mountains, seas, rivers, monsters, gods, and tribal peoples. It is divided mainly into the “Mountains” (Shan Jing) and the “Seas” (Hai Jing) parts, which describe various geographical regions, their flora and fauna, and mythical stories associated with them.

Mythology and Fantasy in the Classic of Mountains and Seas

One of the most captivating aspects of the Classic of Mountains and Seas is its vivid portrayal of mythical creatures, deities, and supernatural phenomena. Unlike many ancient texts that are strictly historical or religious, this classic blends imagination with natural observations, creating a unique tapestry of fantasy and reality.

Famous Mythical Creatures and Beings

The text features a wide array of fantastic beings, many of which have become staples in Chinese mythology and folklore:

- **Qilin:** Often described as a chimera-like creature with features of a deer, dragon, and ox, the Qilin is a symbol of good fortune and prosperity.

- **Jiuwei Hu (Nine-tailed Fox):** A mystical fox with nine tails, often associated with shape-shifting and magical powers.
- **Birds like the Peng:** A giant bird capable of massive flights, symbolizing freedom and transcendence.
- **Various monstrous beasts:** From multi-headed snakes to strange hybrid animals, these creatures often serve as metaphors for natural dangers or moral lessons.

These mythical creatures not only entertain but also reflect ancient Chinese attempts to explain natural phenomena and human psychology through allegory.

Gods, Spirits, and Cosmic Geography

The Classic of Mountains and Seas also introduces a pantheon of gods and spirits tied closely to geography. Mountains are often personified or inhabited by divine beings, while seas and rivers are home to water spirits and dragons. This intertwining of landscape and spirituality reveals how ancient Chinese culture saw the environment as alive with sacred energy.

For example, certain mountains are depicted as the abodes of immortals or as sources of magical herbs and treasures. This belief would later influence Daoist practices and Chinese medicine.

Geographical Insights and Cultural Significance

Beyond mythology, the Classic of Mountains and Seas offers valuable insights into the geographical knowledge and cultural perceptions of ancient China. Although many locations described are fantastical or exaggerated, the text also contains references to real places, tribes, and natural

resources.

Mapping the Ancient World

The mountains, rivers, and seas cataloged in the text provide clues about how early Chinese viewed their surrounding world. Some scholars have tried to correlate the descriptions with actual geographic locations, from the Himalayas in the west to the coastal regions in the east.

This blending of fact and fiction suggests that the text functioned as both a travelogue and a mythic map, helping early explorers and traders understand the vast and mysterious lands beyond their immediate surroundings.

Ethnographic Descriptions

Interestingly, the Classic of Mountains and Seas also contains accounts of various ethnic groups and tribes living on the margins of ancient Chinese civilization. These accounts include descriptions of customs, clothing, and behaviors, offering anthropological insights into the diversity of peoples known to the Chinese at that time.

While some depictions are mythical or exaggerated, others reveal genuine attempts at understanding and cataloging the human world beyond the central Chinese states.

The Classic of Mountains and Seas in Modern Culture

The influence of the Classic of Mountains and Seas extends well beyond its ancient origins. Its rich imagery and mythology continue to inspire contemporary literature, art, and popular culture in China and beyond.

Literary and Artistic Inspirations

Many modern Chinese authors and artists draw upon the creatures and stories found in the Classic of Mountains and Seas. Its blend of natural history and fantasy has proven fertile ground for novels, comics, and visual arts. The text's illustrations and descriptions inspire imaginative depictions of mythical beasts and landscapes in movies, video games, and animation.

Academic and Scholarly Interest

Scholars continue to study the Classic of Mountains and Seas to better understand ancient Chinese cosmology, mythology, and geography. It provides a window into how early Chinese societies made sense of their environment and cultural identity. Ongoing research often combines textual analysis with archaeological findings to uncover the historical layers behind the myths.

Tips for Exploring the Classic of Mountains and Seas

If you're intrigued and want to explore this ancient text, here are some helpful tips to guide your journey:

- **Start with a good translation:** Since the original text is in classical Chinese, look for reputable English translations with scholarly commentary to grasp the nuances.
- **Approach it as a mythological and cultural artifact:** Don't expect a straightforward geography book; embrace the blend of fantasy and fact.
- **Cross-reference with other Chinese myths:** Many creatures and stories in the Classic of Mountains and Seas appear in other Chinese folklore and Daoist texts.

- **Engage with visual materials:** Illustrations, maps, and adaptations help bring the text's rich imagery to life.

By keeping these tips in mind, you can appreciate the text not just as a historical document, but as a living source of inspiration and cultural heritage.

The Classic of Mountains and Seas remains a captivating window into ancient Chinese imagination, geography, and spirituality. Its timeless tales continue to resonate, inviting us to explore a world where mountains breathe, seas hide monsters, and the boundary between reality and myth is delightfully blurred.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Classic of Mountains and Seas'?

'The Classic of Mountains and Seas' is an ancient Chinese text that compiles geography, mythology, folklore, and natural history, traditionally attributed to various authors and believed to have been written during the Warring States to Han dynasty periods.

Why is 'The Classic of Mountains and Seas' significant in Chinese literature?

It is significant because it is one of the earliest and most comprehensive records of Chinese mythology and geography, influencing literature, art, and cultural understanding of ancient China.

What kind of content can be found in 'The Classic of Mountains and Seas'?

The text contains descriptions of mountains, rivers, animals, plants, mythical creatures, gods, and

various strange phenomena, blending natural observation with mythological elements.

How has 'The Classic of Mountains and Seas' influenced modern culture?

It has inspired contemporary literature, video games, films, and art by providing a rich source of mythological stories and fantastical creatures unique to Chinese culture.

Are there multiple versions or editions of 'The Classic of Mountains and Seas'?

Yes, over centuries, several versions and commentaries have emerged, with the most commonly referenced being the editions compiled during the Han dynasty, though variations exist.

What role does mythology play in 'The Classic of Mountains and Seas'?

Mythology is central, as the text details numerous gods, legendary heroes, and mythical beasts, reflecting ancient Chinese cosmology and spiritual beliefs.

Can 'The Classic of Mountains and Seas' be used as a historical source?

While it provides valuable insight into ancient Chinese thought and culture, the text is a mix of mythology and geography, so historians use it cautiously and supplement it with other sources for factual information.

Additional Resources

The Classic of Mountains and Seas: An Ancient Chinese Compendium of Myth, Geography, and Culture

the classic of mountains and seas stands as one of the most enigmatic and influential texts within ancient Chinese literature. Known in Chinese as "Shan Hai Jing" (山海经), this compendium interweaves mythology, geography, ethnography, and natural history, offering a multifaceted window into early Chinese civilization and worldview. Its origins, content, and enduring legacy have fascinated scholars, historians, and literary enthusiasts for centuries, making it a pivotal subject in the study of classical Chinese culture and myth.

Exploring the Origins and Historical Context

The classic of mountains and seas is traditionally attributed to a compilation period spanning from the Warring States era (475–221 BCE) to the early Han Dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE), although the exact date of its creation remains uncertain. Its authorship is similarly ambiguous, with some scholars suggesting it was assembled by multiple contributors over time, gradually accumulating regional myths, geographical descriptions, and folklore.

This text serves as more than a mere geographical record; it reflects an ancient Chinese attempt to catalogue the natural world and supernatural phenomena in a pre-scientific era. The compilation comprises 18 sections detailing various mountains, rivers, seas, and the creatures inhabiting these realms, blending factual topography with mythological elements.

Structure and Content Overview

The Shan Hai Jing is divided into four major sections:

- **Classic of the Mountains (Shan Jing):** Descriptions of 5 mountain ranges and their environments, focusing on natural resources and mythical beings.
- **Classic of the Seas (Hai Jing):** Accounts of the seas surrounding ancient China, including

islands, creatures, and supernatural phenomena.

- **Classic of the Great Wilderness (Da Yuan Jing):** Narratives concerning the vast, unexplored wilderness areas.
- **Classic of the Regions Beyond the Seas (Hai Wai Jing):** Exotic descriptions of places and peoples beyond the known world.

These sections collectively amount to a rich tapestry of mythic geography, intertwined with cultural, cosmological, and ecological knowledge.

Mythological Significance and Cultural Impact

The classic of mountains and seas is not merely a geographic text; it is a foundational source for Chinese mythology. The text introduces a myriad of mythological creatures, gods, and legendary heroes that have influenced Chinese art, literature, and folklore extensively.

One of the most notable contributions of the Shan Hai Jing is its portrayal of fantastical beasts such as the nine-tailed fox, the phoenix, and various hybrid creatures combining human and animal traits. These mythic figures symbolize broader cultural themes such as transformation, power, and nature's mysteries.

Furthermore, the text provides insights into ancient cosmology, depicting the earth as a flat square surrounded by seas and inhabited by various tribes and monsters. This worldview contrasts with later Chinese cosmological models, underscoring the evolution of ancient Chinese scientific thought.

Comparisons with Other Ancient Texts

When compared to other classical Chinese works such as the "Classic of Poetry" (Shi Jing) or the "Records of the Grand Historian" (Shiji), the classic of mountains and seas occupies a unique niche. While the former texts focus on societal norms, history, and moral philosophy, Shan Hai Jing delves deeply into the natural and supernatural realms.

Internationally, the text can be likened to early mytho-geographic works such as the Greek "Geographica" by Strabo or the "Natural History" by Pliny the Elder, though the Shan Hai Jing distinguishes itself through a heavier emphasis on myth and legend rather than empirical observation.

Analyzing the Text's Influence on Modern Scholarship and Popular Culture

In modern times, the classic of mountains and seas has attracted scholarly interest across disciplines such as anthropology, literature, and history. Contemporary researchers analyze it not only as a mythological source but also as an early ethnographic record, revealing the diversity of ancient Chinese ethnic groups and their interactions with the environment.

Moreover, the text's vivid descriptions have inspired numerous adaptations in contemporary media. From novels and films to video games and animation, the creatures and legends of the Shan Hai Jing continue to captivate popular imagination. This cultural resurgence underscores the text's timeless appeal and its role in shaping Chinese identity.

Pros and Cons of Using the Classic as a Historical Source

- **Pros:**

- Provides unique insights into ancient Chinese mythology and geography.
- Serves as a valuable resource for understanding early Chinese cosmology and cultural beliefs.
- Offers ethnographic details about early Chinese tribes and neighboring peoples.

- **Cons:**

- Mixes myth with reality, making it difficult to distinguish factual information.
- Contains inconsistencies and contradictions due to its composite, multi-authored nature.
- Lacks precise geographic accuracy by modern standards.

Translations and Accessibility

One challenge for global appreciation of the classic of mountains and seas has been the scarcity of comprehensive and accurate translations. Early Western translations often focused on selective excerpts, sometimes skewed by cultural misunderstandings or incomplete knowledge of classical Chinese.

However, recent decades have seen a surge in scholarly translations and annotated editions, which aim to present the text in context while elucidating its complex symbolism. These modern translations have opened new avenues for comparative mythology and cross-cultural studies, enriching global discourse on ancient narratives.

The Role of Archaeology and Technology in Decoding the Text

Advancements in archaeology and digital humanities have contributed to a more nuanced understanding of the Shan Hai Jing. Excavations in regions mentioned in the text have sometimes corroborated geographical references, while digital mapping tools allow scholars to visualize and analyze the text's geographic claims more systematically.

Moreover, interdisciplinary approaches combining linguistics, ethnology, and environmental science help decode the symbolic meanings behind the text's descriptions of flora, fauna, and landscapes.

The classic of mountains and seas thus remains a living document, continually reinterpreted through contemporary methodologies and technologies.

The enduring allure of the classic of mountains and seas lies in its intricate fusion of the real and the mythical, reflecting an ancient worldview where nature and legend coexist seamlessly. As scholarship progresses and cultural interest persists, this ancient compendium promises to remain a vital source for understanding China's rich historical tapestry and the universal human impulse to narrate the unknown.

[The Classic Of Mountains And Seas](#)

the classic of mountains and seas: The Classic of Mountains and Seas , 2000-01-01 This major source of Chinese mythology (third century BC to second century AD) contains a treasure

trove of rare data and colorful fiction about the mythical figures, rituals, medicine, natural history, and ethnic peoples of the ancient world. The Classic of Mountains and Seas explores 204 mythical figures such as the gods Foremost, Fond Care, and Yellow, and goddesses Queen Mother of the West and Girl Lovely, as well as many other figures unknown outside this text. This eclectic Classic also contains crucial information on early medicine (with cures for impotence and infertility), omens to avert catastrophe, and rites of sacrifice, and familiar and unidentified plants and animals. It offers a guided tour of the known world in antiquity, moving outwards from the famous mountains of central China to the lands “beyond the seas.” Translated with an introduction and notes by Anne Birrell.

the classic of mountains and seas: Fantastic Creatures of the Mountains and Seas

Anonymous, Jiankun Sun, 2021-06-01 The gorgeously illustrated contemporary edition of an ancient Chinese text—for fans of fantastic beasts everywhere *Fantastic Creatures of the Mountains and Seas* is a new translation for contemporary readers of a classic Chinese text that is at once the geography of an ancient world, a bestiary of mythical creatures, and a book of cultural and medicinal lore. Illustrated throughout with more than 180 two-color drawings that are so sinuous they move on the page, it is a work for lovers of fantasy and mythology, ancient knowledge, fabulous beasts, and inspired art. The beings catalogued within these pages come from the regions of the known world, from the mountains and seas, the Great Wastelands, and the Lands Within the Seas that became China. They include spirits and deities and all sorts of strange creatures—dragons and phoenixes, hybrid beasts, some with human features, some hideous or with a call like wood splitting, or that portend drought or flood or bounty; others whose flesh cures disease or fends off nightmares, or whose pelt guarantees many progeny. Drawn from *The Classic of Mountains and Seas*, *Fantastic Creatures* is the work of two members of China's millennial generation, a young scholar and writer once known as the youngest Genius of Chinese Cultural Studies and an inspired illustrator trained in China and the United States, who together managed to communicate with the soul of a 4,000-year-old beast and have brought forth its strange beauty. Their work has been rendered into English by the foremost translator of modern Chinese literature in the West.

the classic of mountains and seas: Images of Women in Chinese Thought and Culture

Robin Wang, 2003-01-01 This rich collection of writings--many translated especially for this volume and some available in English for the first time--provides a journey through the history of Chinese culture, tracing the Chinese understanding of women as elucidated in writings spanning more than two thousand years. From the earliest oracle bone inscriptions of the Pre-Qin period through the poems and stories of the Song Dynasty, these works shed light on Chinese images of women and their roles in society in terms of such topics as human nature, cosmology, gender, and virtue.

the classic of mountains and seas: Tao Yuanming & Manuscript Culture Xiaofei Tian, 2005 As medieval Chinese manuscripts were copied and recopied through the centuries, both mistakes and deliberate editorial changes were introduced. Xiaofei Tian shows how readers not only experience authors but produce them by shaping texts to their interpretation, focusing on the evolution over the centuries of the reclusive poet Tao Yuanming into a figure of epic stature.

the classic of mountains and seas: China Justin Wintle, 2002 Home to a quarter of the world's population, China is the rising super-power of the 21st century. The Rough Guide Chronicle gives you the country's core history in accessible style and handy format, covering more than four thousand years from the earliest kingdoms to today's communist republic. Featuring a continuous time-line, sidebars on Confucius, the Terracotta Army, the invention of printing, Mao Zedong and a host of other topics, plus dozens of illustrations and quotations, The Rough Guide Chronicle is a vital reference for travellers and students alike. Book jacket

the classic of mountains and seas: The Moon Builders and legend of Human origin

MicroStar, 2022-05-01 This is a full version of “Ancient Mythology” in English — worth everyone’s collection! This is a completely re-translated version of Mote In order to let “English readers” around the world know the purpose and history of “the true history of human civilization” and “humans built the moon” 月亮

the classic of mountains and seas: The Columbia History of Chinese Literature Victor H.

Mair, 2010-02-22 Comprehensive yet portable, this account of the development of Chinese literature from the very beginning up to the present brings the riches of this august literary tradition into focus for the general reader. Organized chronologically with thematic chapters interspersed, the fifty-five original chapters by leading specialists cover all genres and periods of poetry, prose, fiction, and drama, with a special focus on such subjects as popular culture, the impact of religion upon literature, the role of women, and relationships with non-Sinitic languages and peoples.

the classic of mountains and seas: *The Ashgate Research Companion to Monsters and the Monstrous* Asa Simon Mittman, Peter Dendle, 2012 The field of monster studies has grown significantly over the past few years and this companion provides a comprehensive guide to the study of monsters and the monstrous from historical, regional and thematic perspectives. The collection reflects the truly multi-disciplinary nature of monster studies, bringing in scholars from literature, art history, religious studies, history, classics, and cultural and media studies. The companion will offer scholars and graduate students the first comprehensive and authoritative review of this emergent field.

the classic of mountains and seas: *Myths of Mountains and Seas* Tang YiGuDian, 2020-05-11 In the four seas and eight wastelands, the Mystic Maiden offered up the secret arts of the Mountain and Sea Realm, the Seven Domains of the Nine Prefectures, and the Nine Tripod Commerce. When this cauldron reached ten percent completion, the rain of blood would rain down upon the deities and devils. The River Diagram appeared, as did Luo Shu. The human world was in turmoil. It was rumored that these nine cauldrons were the ones that had gained the world. However, he did not know that the treasures of the nine cauldrons were all in the Mountain Sea Secret Art that was drawn on the cauldron. After that, the nine cauldrons sank into the Luo River, disappearing without a trace. The five paths of the world, the Wonder Gate, the Illusion Dao, the Mountain Sect, the Sea Sect, the Scripture Pavilion, and the five sects' heirs, each had their own secret treasures, all for the sake of obtaining the Mountain Sea secret arts within the nine cauldrons. This fight lasted for thousands of years ...

the classic of mountains and seas: *The Key To Unlock The World* Book One 解锁世界, 2025-05-29

the classic of mountains and seas: *Theoretical Study of Ethnogeography* Yanbo Guan, 2025-05-29 This book conducts a systematic research on the basic theoretical system of ethnogeography, area differentiation and spatial changes of ethnic community, national ecological outlook on human-land relations, geographical distribution of various nationalities in the world, and historical geographical background of regional ethnic composition. From the perspective of the development of the discipline, through comprehensive review of the basic materials, development process, and research status of ethnogeography, the book reveals the basic theoretical issues of the basic concepts, subject attributes, research objects, contents and methods of ethnogeography and initially sets up the basic framework for the study of ethnogeography.

the classic of mountains and seas: *Ming-Dynasty China and the World Along the Silk Road* Wan Ming, 2024-12-24 This book, the first of a multi-volume set on the Silk Road during the Ming Dynasty, takes a holistic and global view of the origin and development of the Silk Road. The multi-volume work revisits the history of the Silk Road and analyzes the evolving relationship between China and the world from the late 14th century to the mid-17th century. It reveals the historical significance of the Silk Road and cultural exchange for world history. This first volume focuses on China's foreign relations in the early Ming Dynasty, with its non-invasive foreign policy and ideal of common peace, which differed from the foreign policies of all previous dynasties. The discussion also extends to the continued development of the Silk Road routes, both land and sea, in the late Ming Dynasty, a time when the West discovered China through the footprints of the Khitan people. It illuminates the historical contribution of China during the Ming Dynasty to the world of a shared future for mankind. This title is essential reading for historians and students of world or Chinese history, as well as anyone with a keen interest in historical global connections, Silk Road studies or Sino-foreign relations.

the classic of mountains and seas: *HCI International 2021 - Late Breaking Posters*

Constantine Stephanidis, Margherita Antona, Stavroula Ntoa, 2021-11-05 This two-volume set CCIS 1498 and CCIS 1499 contains the late breaking posters presented during the 23rd International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, HCII 2021, which was held virtually in July 2021. The total of 1276 papers and 241 posters included in the 39 HCII 2021 proceedings volumes was carefully reviewed and selected from 5222 submissions. Additionally, 174 papers and 146 posters are included in the volumes of the proceedings published after the conference, as "Late Breaking Work" (papers and posters). The posters presented in these two volumes are organized in topical sections as follows: HCI Theory and Practice; UX Design and Research in Intelligent Environments; Interaction with Robots, Chatbots, and Agents; Virtual, Augmented, and Mixed Reality; Games and Gamification; HCI in Mobility, Transport and Aviation; Design for All and Assistive Technologies; Physiology, Affect and Cognition; HCI for Health and Wellbeing; HCI in Learning, Teaching, and Education; Culture and Computing; Social Computing; Design Case Studies; User Experience Studies.

the classic of mountains and seas: *The Silencing of Jesuit Figurist Joseph de Prémare in Eighteenth-Century China* D. E. Mungello, 2019-06-24 The image of a voice in the wilderness evokes an outcast who has been condemned and banished by society. That image fits the scholar-priest Joseph de Prémare who spent the last thirty-eight years of his life (1698-1736) mainly in remote areas of China. He was condemned to silence by not only his religious superiors, but also by intellectuals in Europe. He was silenced because his Figurist theories were regarded as dangerous and implausible. And yet the irony of this silencing is that Father Prémare was one of the most knowledgeable Sinologists of all time. As a missionary in towns in the southern province of Jiangxi, he was freed from many pastoral duties by an assisting catechist and able to devote himself to intensive study of Chinese texts. He was practically a scholar-hermit who left the urban, politicized atmosphere of Beijing after only two years to return to Jiangxi province. There he cultivated Chinese literati who helped him assemble a remarkable collection of classical texts. He was prolific in producing a wide body of works in philology, history, philosophy, religion and drama. Faced by critics who were claiming that Chinese culture was alien to Christianity, Prémare joined the effort led by his fellow Jesuit Joachim Bouvet to save the Christian mission in China from destruction. The Figurists were radical in arguing that the ancient Chinese texts, like the Old Testament, anticipated the coming of Christ long before his birth. They claimed that Chinese commentators erred in viewing these ancient texts as records of history when in fact they were works of metaphorical and figurative meaning. Influenced by a Chinese scholar, Prémare made a philological analysis of Chinese characters to explain his theory. When Figurism was condemned by his religious superiors, Prémare attempted to circumvent their prohibition by sending his manuscripts to the proto-Sinologist Etienne Fourmont in Paris, asking that they be published anonymously. Fourmont criticized Prémare's theories and failed to publish them. By the time of his death, Prémare had sent most of his manuscripts to Paris where they remained buried for many years.

the classic of mountains and seas: *X-Venture The Golden Age of Adventure H14 - Menace Of The Secret Cave* Tadatada/ Solar Team, Aiming for the top! Encountering secrets of the past! Upon finding an ancient sword near a cave on Mt Song, a villager, as if possessed, goes on a slashing spree, Alex, Lulu, and Shaolin disciple Ming Kongare shocked to discover the man under the control of strange worms. What other dangers lurk in the shadows of the dark cavern?

the classic of mountains and seas: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ALTAIC MYTHOLOGIES IN CHINA G. Namjil, Wang Ruli, 2023-08-28 Lending support to the search for the roots of the Altaic language family and pushing forward the field of Altaic mythologies and related topics, this comprehensive study of the early beliefs of China's Altaic peoples is the first thorough, systematic academic treatment in this, as yet, underdeveloped research field. While discussing nine types of Altaic mythologies, *A Comparative Study of Altaic Mythologies in China* uses primary sources in several languages to explore Altaic myths' origins, development over centuries, lineage relationships, and external influences. For this purpose, it compares the mythologies of various ethnic groups within the Altaic language family, Altaic mythologies with those of other

cross-language and cross-cultural ethnic groups having direct, indirect or even no cultural exchanges with them in history, as well as Altaic mythologies with folklore, religion and other interdisciplinary domains of Altaic Studies by applying the theories and methods of comparative literature studies, comparative folklore studies and comparative mythology to a vast collection of mythological materials. As wide-ranging as it is deeply researched, this serious exploration of Altaic Studies breaks the boundaries of the previously closed research model, expands theoretical horizons, broadens the research scope, introduces a new mechanism for understanding myths and co-cultures of the Altaic language family, and offers insight toward the reconstruction of Proto-Altaic Mythology.

the classic of mountains and seas: *Making the New World Their Own* Qiong Zhang, 2015-05-26 In *Making the New World Their Own*, Qiong Zhang offers a systematic study of how Chinese scholars in the late Ming and early Qing came to understand that the earth is shaped as a globe. This notion arose from their encounters with Matteo Ricci, Giulio Aleni and other Jesuits. These encounters formed a fascinating chapter in the early modern global integration of space. It unfolded as a series of mutually constitutive and competing scholarly discourses that reverberated in fields from cosmology, cartography and world geography to classical studies. Zhang demonstrates how scholars such as Xiong Mingyu, Fang Yizhi, Jie Xuan, Gu Yanwu, and Hu Wei appropriated Jesuit ideas to rediscover China's place in the world and reconstitute their classical tradition. Winner of the Chinese Historians in the United States (CHUS) 2015 Academic Excellence Award

the classic of mountains and seas: *An Introduction to Chinese Poetry* Michael Fuller, 2020-10-26 This innovative textbook for learning classical Chinese poetry moves beyond the traditional anthology of poems translated into English and instead brings readers—including those with no knowledge of Chinese—as close as possible to the texture of the poems in their original language. The first two chapters introduce the features of classical Chinese that are important for poetry and then survey the formal and rhetorical conventions of classical poetry. The core chapters present the major poets and poems of the Chinese poetic tradition from earliest times to the lyrics of the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Each chapter begins with an overview of the historical context for the poetry of a particular period and provides a brief biography for each poet. Each of the poems appears in the original Chinese with a word-by-word translation, followed by Michael A. Fuller's unadorned translation, and a more polished version by modern translators. A question-based study guide highlights the important issues in reading and understanding each particular text. Designed for classroom use and for self-study, the textbook's goal is to help the reader appreciate both the distinctive voices of the major writers in the Chinese poetic tradition and the grand contours of the development of that tradition.

the classic of mountains and seas: *World of Myths* Marina Warner, Felipe Fernández-Armesto, 2004-06-01 Vol. two is a compilation of five books. Each author describes the cultural background, written sources, and continuing legacy of the major myths, illustrated throughout by archaeological and artistic evidence.

the classic of mountains and seas: *The Queen of the South in Matthew 12:42* Soleilmavis Liu, 2013-12-26 The Bible prophesies the Queen of the South will rise at the judgment, but did not give her name or any other detail about her. *The Queen of the South in Matthew 12:42*, authored by Soleilmavis Liu, is a strong and well-reasoned piece that demonstrates who the Queen of the South is, by using plenty of historical facts. It lets readers understand where the Ends of the Earth are, how the Queen of the South will come from the Ends of the Earth, and what the judgment is. Ultimately, readers will come to know God's great plan regarding the Queen of the South. However, Satan and his followers will persecute her. Soleilmavis hopes that her presentation sheds new light on this important person, who will play a decisive role in the history. This book is a step in that direction.

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