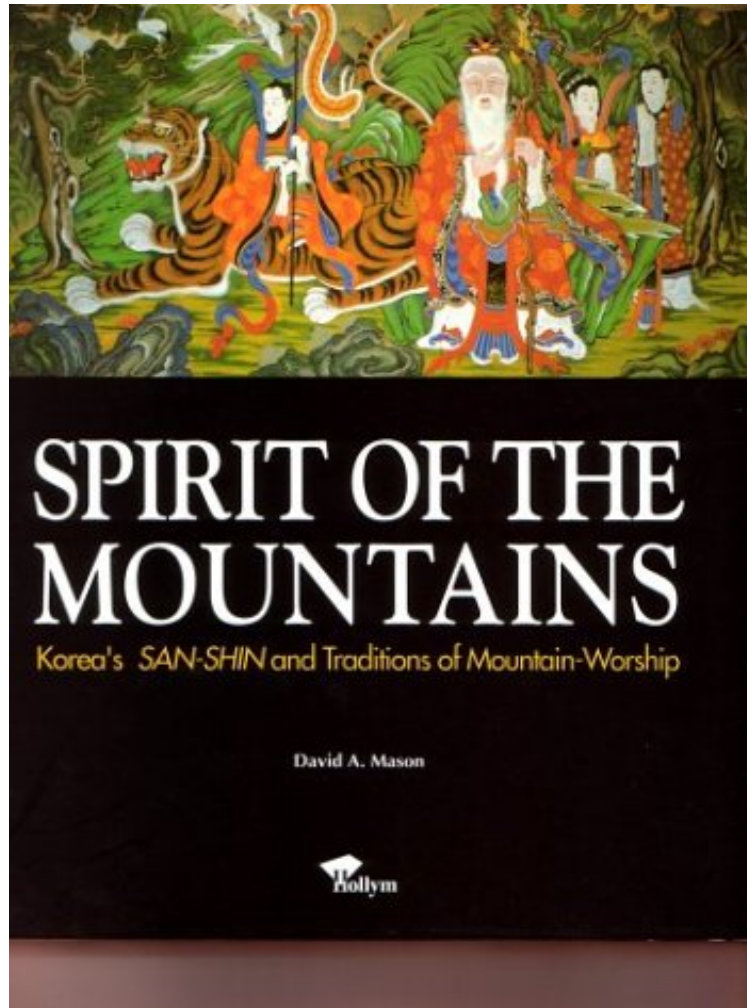



(Pdf free) Spirit Of The Mountains


## Spirit Of The Mountains

*Weatherhill*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



 Download

 Read Online

#3213044 in Books 1999-01-29 1999-01-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 .83 x 8.96 x 10.54l, #File Name: 1565911075224 pages | File size: 59.Mb

**Weatherhill : Spirit Of The Mountains** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spirit Of The Mountains:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing bookBy Ryan ReiterThis is the only book of it's kind. I've lived in Korea for well over a year and I am very interested in Korean Shamanism. This book has so much information that you can't find else where in English and most about what I've read about Korean traditional religions comes from this book. You just can't find other decent books on the topic unless you can read Korea understand Korean fluently.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Review of David Mason's *'Spirit of the Mountains'*By Gerald Feeney*'Spirit of the Mountains: Korea's SAN-SHIN and Traditions of Mountain-Worship'*, by David A. Mason, is at first striking because of its physical appearance. The luxurious thick glossy stock and abundance of beautiful, full-color photographs enable it to easily pass for an elegant coffee-table book. But don't let its looks fool you. The text is

substantial and informative. What's more, it informs on a subject which is certainly obscure for most non-Koreans, and perhaps for many Koreans, as well. Writing in an easy-going, first-person narrative style, David Mason treats the reader to a comprehensive survey of Korean San-shin (or Mountain spirit) imagery, together with a thorough analysis of its composition, history, development, influences, etc. Mason collected the images first-hand over a period of some fifteen years. While Mason's writing is casual in style, it is at the same time, quite scholarly, given its numerous references, notes, and a substantial bibliography. San-shin means "Mountain-spirit, Mountain God, or Spirit of the Mountains," Mason explains. It refers to an ancient belief that each mountain is the home of a spirit or mountain-god that can grant protection, healing, and even spiritual gifts. The iconography associated with San-shin is amazingly diverse and rich in symbolism. The essence, though, is nearly always a grandfatherly figure, a tiger, and a gnarly pine tree in the background. The book contains several hundred photographs of various San-shin icons (as well as of other subjects), and Mason offers the reader explanations and analyses of the underlying meanings of the symbols. Mason explains that mountain worship is both primordial and universal in its oldest form, but at the same time, San-shin has been assimilated and syncretized with other traditions that make it uniquely Korean. For instance, he writes that nearly a century ago, a Christian missionary observed that Korean mountain worship had certain similarities to worship practices he'd found on mountains in the Middle East. Indeed, those instances as well others found in the Himalayas, Greece, among natives of North and South America, and elsewhere, allude to the mythological construct that Joseph Campbell discussed as "the central mountain of the earth." But Mason also shows how San-shin evolved from ancient shamanism and over time blended with Taoism, Neo-Confucianism, Buddhism, and Korean nationalism to form part of the core of the collective Korean psyche. And it's interesting that mountain worship practices have survived and flourished to a far greater extent in Korea than anywhere else on earth. Spirit of the Mountains is visually dazzling, a worthwhile read, and a fascinating pilgrimage to Korea's sacred sites - one that very few people could ever hope to make in person.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very scholarly and well-researched. By KmamaI was very impressed by Mr. Mason's research. He was able to capture and express the deep roots of what underlies so much of Korean culture through his thorough investigation. This type of work can only be accomplished through significant investment of time and thought. Korea has been influenced by Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism and it has embraced Christianity with a fervor that surpasses western vigor, yet the San-Shin spirit will always live and continue to permeate the mind, heart and soul of the Korean people.

This book shows the relationship between San-shin and Korean Buddhism that has traditionally been one of mutual support and mutual absorption. In a theoretical sense their relationship takes this three-sided form: Buddha in his role as cosmic Lord enfeoffs San-shin with its own mountain, and thus augments the powers and legitimacy San-shin already enjoys. San-shin is not yet very well-known in the world, despite being the most central and characteristic figure in traditional Korean culture. It remains uniquely Korean, although depicted with imported Chinese artistic motifs, which are clearly explained in this volume. Its various cultural roles and manifestations are described, with photos of San-shin icons and their shrines all over South Korea, pointing out their various common and unique religious and artistic characteristics. The various connections and relationships of San-shin with the five major religious, philosophical traditions of Korean-Buddhism, Shamanism, Daoism, Confucianism, and Christianity are fully explored. The other deities and symbols which share paintings and shrines with San-shin are briefly introduced, to shed further light on its identity. Contrary cases of contemporary opposition to San-shin and the potential roles of mountain-worship in 21-century Korean culture (national identity, ecology, re-unification) are discussed to provide deeper perspectives. This book is the most comprehensive study ever published on Korea's ancient mountain-worship traditions in any language. The author hopes that it will introduce San-shin to a global audience.

About the Author David A. Mason grew up in Michigan, and furthered his education in San Francisco. He has lived in South Korea for fifteen years so far, exploring it and writing about its history and culture. He earned his second M.A. in Korean Studies at Yonsei University in Seoul. He is currently a professor of English at Yonsei's Wonju campus, in Kangwon Province, where his research on Korea's ancient-but-still-strong mountain-worship traditions continues.

Words from the Author: Korean Mountain spirit caught my interest when I first visited a Korean Buddhist temple in the summer of 1982, more than sixteen years ago. Since that time I have collected photographs of and information about it as a hobby, along with hiking in Korea's beautiful and sacred mountains. By the 1990s I noticed that San-shin is unjustifiably unknown to the world, and even little-known within the field of Korean cultural studies. I came to feel some calling to research the subject deeply and present my findings to everyone who might be interested.