

聖顯與台灣的石頭崇拜

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摘要

作者認為從「石頭崇拜」著手來探討「神明為什麼在當初會被人認為是神」這樣的問題有其方便之處，因為石頭何止千千萬萬，為什麼只有極少數的那些會被當成是聖石而加以崇拜呢？從作者前幾年收集的田野資料分析發現，民間信仰並非如一般所言只關心他們所拜的神明靈不靈驗、祈求的事有沒有被應允，或是如果神明靈驗才被崇拜，不靈驗就被忽視。民間信徒崇拜的動機乃基於石頭的「聖顯」。

民間信徒跟世俗化的人不一樣，後者認為石頭或可分大小、輕重、深淺，但絕沒有聖俗之分。對於他們來說，龜形石、鶴形石、人形石或顯奇蹟的石頭都只不過是巧合，沒有什麼超自然的意義可言。然而民間信徒因為感受到文化賦予他們聖顯的意義，而認為這些石頭的形成都是有意義的巧合。

關鍵字：聖顯、石頭崇拜、民間信仰

Hierophany and Stone Worship in Taiwan

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Abstract

This paper deals with certain aspects of the Chinese popular religion in Taiwan; the cult of the gods represented by stone, specifically. This study demonstrates that the folk people become aware of the sacred because they manifest themselves, as something wholly different from the profane. Even though the people do not have theologians to explain and defend their beliefs, the hierophany of the stones can illustrate the seriousness of their religious practices.

The field materials cited in this paper are based primarily on field research conducted in Taiwan and in the widest range of villages and towns on the island -- chosen at random -- that I was able to visit, given the time and resources at my disposal.

Keywords: hierophany, stone worship, popular religion