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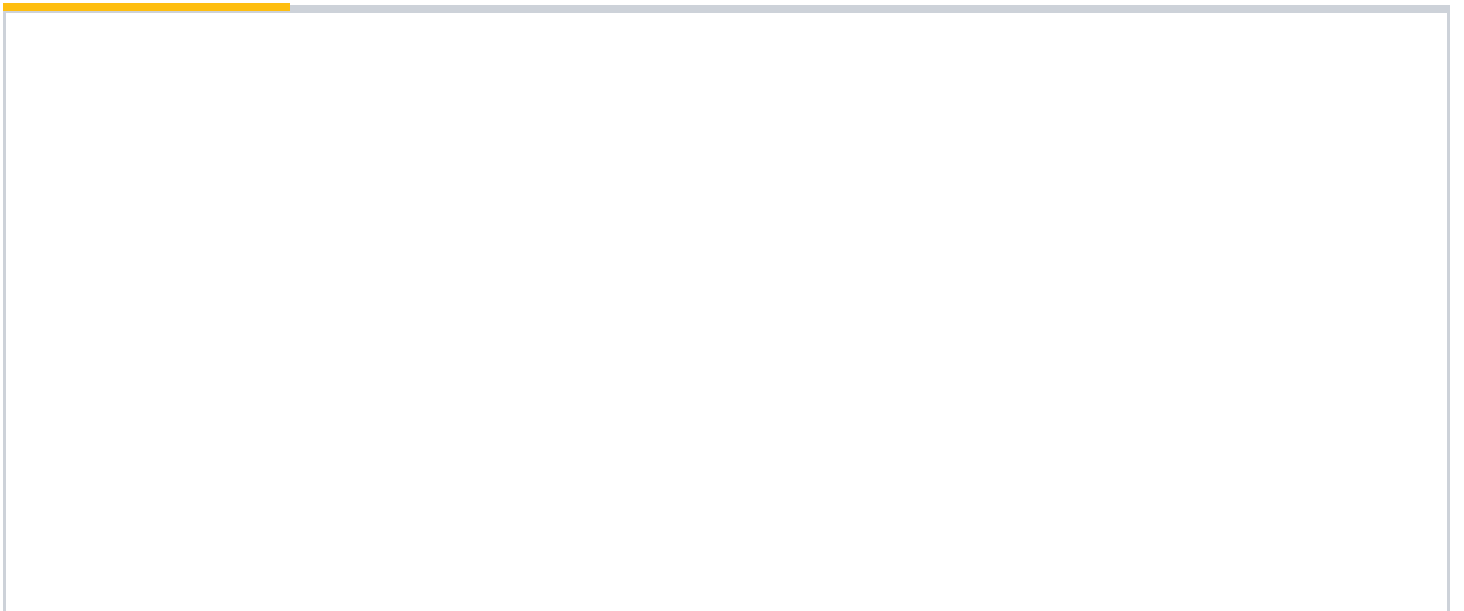
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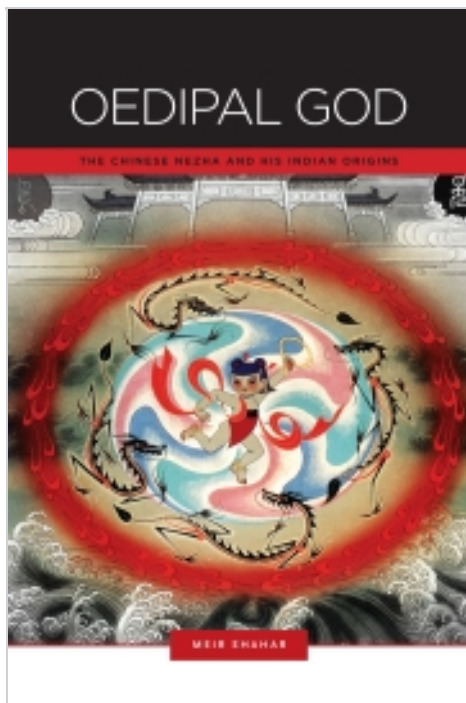


# Oedipal God: The Chinese Nezha and His Indian Origins



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## Oedipal God: The Chinese Nezha and His Indian Origins

*Meir Shahar*

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### SUMMARY

*Oedipal God* offers the most comprehensive account in any language of the prodigal deity Nezha. Celebrated for over a millennium, Nezha is among the most formidable and enigmatic of all Chinese gods. In this theoretically informed study Meir Shahar recounts Nezha's riveting tale—which culminates in suicide and attempted patricide—and uncovers hidden tensions in the Chinese family system. In deploying the Freudian hypothesis, Shahar does not imply the Chinese legend's identity with the Greek story of Oedipus. For one, in Nezha's story the erotic attraction to the mother is not explicitly acknowledged. More generally, Chinese oedipal tales differ from Freud's Greek prototype by the high degree of repression that is applied to them. Shahar argues that, despite a

# Table of Contents

---

## Cover

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## Title, Copyright

pp. i-iv

 Download | Save

---

## Contents

pp. v-vi

 Download | Save

---

## Acknowledgments

pp. vii-viii

 Download | Save

---

## Introduction

pp. ix-xvi

 Download | Save

---

## 1. Sons and Fathers

pp. 1-17

 Download | Save

---

## 2. Patricide and Suicide

pp. 18-37

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---

### **3. The Chinese Oedipus**

pp. 38-58

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

---

### **4. Teenage Delinquent or Revolutionary Martyr**

pp. 59-80

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

---

### **5. Divine Warrior**

pp. 81-102

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

---

### **6. The Child-God**

pp. 103-140

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

---

### **7. Biological and Spiritual Fathers**

pp. 141-151

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

---

### **8. Esoteric Buddhism**

pp. 152-173

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

---

### **9. Nezha, Nalakṣ̄bara, and Kṣ̄ṣ̄ṣ̄a**

pp. 174-186

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

---

## **Epilogue: Esoteric Buddhism and the Chinese Supernatural**

pp. 187-190

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

---

## **Abbreviations**

pp. 191-192

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

---

## **Notes**

pp. 193-218

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

---

## **Glossary**

pp. 219-256

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

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