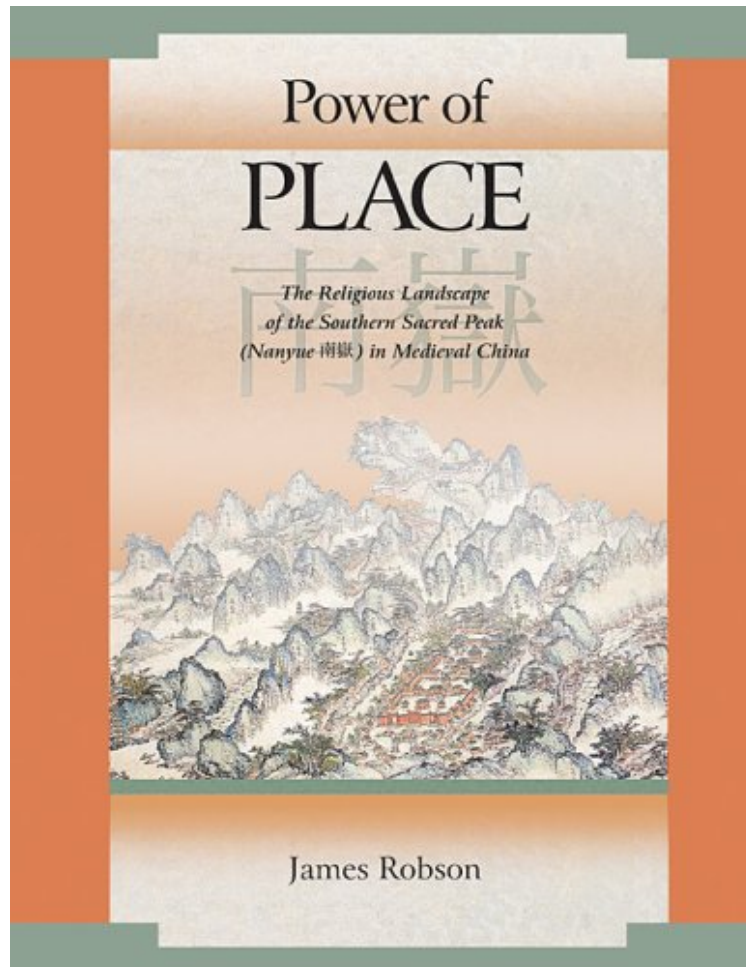


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## Power of Place: The Religious Landscape of the Southern Sacred Peak (Nanyue ) in Medieval China (Harvard East Asian Monographs)

James Robson

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pointless to address these two issues separately in a diachronic approach. On the other hand, this book reveals the relevance of regional studies (here on the Hengshan) for drawing the history of thought in a more concrete way than simply normative framework does. Anyone wishing to learn about the history of religions in medieval China must read this book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. you have enlightened many on the amazing aspects of Buddhism and Asian studiesBy Jacqueline M.Dr. Robson, you have enlightened many on the amazing aspects of Buddhism and Asian studies. Another wonderful book...thank you!

Throughout Chinese history mountains have been integral components of the religious landscape. They have been considered divine or numinous sites, the abodes of deities, the preferred locations for temples and monasteries, and destinations for pilgrims. Early in Chinese history a set of five mountains were co-opted into the imperial cult and declared sacred peaks, yue, demarcating and protecting the boundaries of the Chinese imperium. The Southern Sacred Peak, or Nanyue, is of interest to scholars not the least because the title has been awarded to several different mountains over the years. The dynamic nature of Nanyue raises a significant theoretical issue of the mobility of sacred space and the nature of the struggles involved in such moves. Another facet of Nanyue is the multiple meanings assigned to this place: political, religious, and cultural. Of particular interest is the negotiation of this space by Daoists and Buddhists. The history of their interaction leads to questions about the nature of the divisions between these two religious traditions. James Robsons analysis of these topics demonstrates the value of local studies and the emerging field of Buddho-Daoist studies in research on Chinese religion.

This volume breaks new ground in the ever-growing body of scholarship on important mountains in China, and thus deserves the close attention of anyone interested in Chinese culture in general and Chinese religious history in particular. (J. M. Hargett Choice 2010-06-01)About the AuthorJames Robson is Associate Professor of Chinese Religion at Harvard University.