



Wandering Spirits: Chen Shiyuan's Encyclopedia of Dreams

Richard E. Strassberg

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Dreams have been taken seriously in China for at least three millennia. *Wandering Spirits* is a translation and study of the most comprehensive work on dream culture in traditional China—*Lofty Principles of Dream Interpretation* (Mengzhan yizhi), compiled in 1562 by Chen Shiyuan and periodically reprinted up to the modern era. The best introduction to the diversity of ideas held by the educated class about dreams, this unique treatise compiles various theories, Chen's own comments concerning the nature of dreams and their role in waking life, and almost seven hundred examples assembled from a wide range of literary sources. This annotated translation is accompanied by a full-length introduction that surveys the evolution of Chinese dream culture and the role of Chen Shiyuan and his encyclopedia.

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