



The Nine Songs: A Study of Shamanism in Ancient China

By Ch'U Yuan



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The Nine Songs were composed in the third century BC and have long been recognized by the Chinese as having Shamanic origins. They throw light on a form of religion widely spread throughout the Far East, as well as being of striking beauty as poetry. In this small book Arthur Waley has translated the poems with a commentary that tells of the various deities the Shamans served, and in an introduction he provides a general account of Shamanism in early China.

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