



Religious Wonder in Pre-Modern Korea: Its Social, Cultural, Political Aspects

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Message from the Guest Editor

Just as in China and Japan, there were phenomena of wonder that took place beyond the purview of people's knowledge of nature in pre-modern times in Korea, often described using the term "yŏnghŏm" (Ch. lingyan, lit. numinous verification). These were religious and spiritual phenomena or events in which the power of the sacred, including buddhas, bodhisattvas, deities, immortals, and scriptures, was (perceived to be) revealed in an incomprehensible way, often as a response to wholesome or unwholesome human actions.

Although there are many records in Korea of yŏnghŏm, associated with Buddhism, Confucianism, folk beliefs, and even Catholicism, few academic studies have been conducted on these events or phenomena, unlike their Chinese and Japanese counterparts, especially beyond the personal realm.

We invite papers that explore yŏnghŏm in pre-modern Korea in regard to its communal, social, or national meaning, implication, or influence, examining, for example, how these phenomena of wonder were made (fabricated), used, or emphasized in order to maintain and justify or challenge the established social, religious, and/or political order.





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