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Nota di contenuto

Preliminary Material / W. Choi -- Introduction: Understanding Korean Myths / W. Choi -- The Korean Gods / W. Choi -- 1. The Formation Of Heaven And Earth / W. Choi -- 2. Shoot For A Sun, Shoot For A Moon / W. Choi -- 3. A Man And A Woman Who Became The Gods Of The Sun And The Moon / W. Choi -- 4. Origin Of The Seven Stars Of The Great Bear / W. Choi -- 5. The Great Flood / W. Choi -- 6. The Grandmother Goddess Of Birth / W. Choi -- 7. Chach'ngbi Agriculture Goddess / W. Choi -- 8. Ch'ilsng, Grain Protection Goddess / W. Choi -- 9. Tanggm-aegi And The Three Chesk Gods / W. Choi -- 10. Samani Lived Three Thousand Years / W. Choi -- 11. Sama Changja And His Scapegoat Horse / W. Choi -- 12. Kangim Went Down To The Underworld To Capture The King Of Hades / W. Choi -- 13. Paridegi, Goddess Who Guides Dead Souls To The Underworld / W. Choi -- 14. The Three Brothers Who Became Shamans To Save Their Mother / W. Choi -- 15. If You Are A Great Shaman, Do You Possess The Gift Of Miracles? / W. Choi -- 16. Kaksi Sonnim, The Smallpox Goddess / W. Choi -- 17. A Benefit For All Sick Children / W. Choi -- 18. Kamnjang-aggi, The Goddess Of Good Fortune / W. Choi -- 19. Onli, The Goddess Of Fortune-Telling / W. Choi -- 20. Bride Ch'ngjing And Her Sacrificial Death For Love / W. Choi -- 21. Hallakkungi, The Flower Warden God In The Sch'n Flower Garden / W. Choi -- 22. The House God And The House-Site Goddess / W. Choi -- 23. The Snake Goddess Migrated To Cheju Island / W. Choi -- 24. Gods Protecting A Village / W. Choi -- 25. Cheju Island's Divine Gods / W. Choi -- 26. Sir Paekju And Sir Kmsang, Witchcrafters / W. Choi -- 27. A Hero Who Killed Poly-Headed Generals / W. Choi -- 28. Kunung, The Warrior God Of Preventing Misfortune / W. Choi -- 29. Tribute Of One Hundred Head Of White Horses / W. Choi -- 30. General Paek, Lake Ch'nji Protecting God On Mount Paekdu / W. Choi -- Further Reading / W. Choi.

Sommario/riassunto

This highly engaging volume by one of Korea's leading scholars of comparative mythology – the the first study of its kind in English – provides a valuable introduction to centuries-old beliefs, myths and folk tales relating to Cosmology and Flood, Birth and Agriculture, Messengers of the Underworld, Shamans, Disease, Good Fortune, Love and Family, Gods of Village Shrines, and Heroes. Containing thirty traditional stories, the book is fully illustrated throughout and contains a wide variety of Korean art, including rare shamanist paintings, as well as the work of some contemporary Korean artists. All the stories, based on Korean oral tradition, have been retold by the author according to their main plot and meaning because the original texts' songs by shamans, containing many obsolete words and obscure idioms, are not easily understood today. The original title and source, including text notes, are provided at the end of each story. The author's Introduction sets out the historical background and significance of the myths that appear here. He also provides full details of each of the Korean gods and their roles in mythology. While being a welcome addition to the literature on Korean culture for the non-specialist, An Illustrated Guide to Korean Mythology also provides an invaluable reference source for scholars and researchers in the fields of East Asian Mythology and Anthropology, as well as Korean History, Religion and Literature.