

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910820886903321
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Titolo	The deities are many [[electronic resource]] : a polytheistic theology // Jordan Paper
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Albany, : State University of New York Press, c2005
ISBN	0-7914-8362-2 1-4237-4393-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (170 p.)
Collana	SUNY series in religious studies
Disciplina	211/.32
Soggetti	Polytheism Religions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 145-152) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- The Cosmic Couple: Mother Earth and Father Sky -- Numinous Nature: Animal, Plant, and Mineral Spirits -- The Family Deified: Ancestral Spirits -- Divine Ghosts: Functional Deities -- The Seminuminous: Culture Heroes and Tricksters -- One or Many: Monotheists' Misperceptions of Polytheism -- Diversity and Accommodation: Human Life in a Polytheistic Milieu -- Further Readings -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The Deities Are Many is a lively and learned introduction to polytheism. Drawing from both his scholarly research and his personal experience, author Jordan Paper is the ideal guide into this milieu. Paper was drawn to polytheism through his love of nature, seeing it as a source of the divine. In this book he focuses on Chinese and Native American religious traditions, as well as West African, African-Brazilian, Hindu, Polynesian, and circum-Polar traditions, to describe the theology of polytheism. The book provides a topology of polytheistic deities, focusing on the cosmic couple, Father Sky and Mother Earth; animal, plant, and mineral deities; ancestral spirits; divine ghosts; and culture heroes and tricksters. Paper also shows how monotheists misunderstand polytheism and provides a polytheist perspective on what it means to be human when the "deities are many." This is a

fascinating, illuminating book, especially for those raised in
monotheistic societies.
