10-1-1990

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KOREAN SHAMANISM: A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Taemin K. Park

Introduction

Although the origin of shamanism in Korean society is not precisely traceable, many scholars suspect that it has existed since Korea's Bronze age.

As Guisso and Yu\(^1\) (1982) indicate in the preface of their publication *Shamanism: the Spirit World of Korea*, the shamanism tradition is "closely woven into the fabric of Korean life and is even now a determinant of the Korean world-view, as well as its family and social customs at all societal levels." As Kim's\(^2\) (1982) work, "Korean Shamanism - a Bibliographical Introduction," notes, shamanism has been of key importance to understanding Korea and the Koreans. We have had the opportunity to view the gradual evolution of the formal study of this religion from the unique Korean perspective beginning with the introduction of the Christian missionary movement introduced by western scholars in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is conceivable to speculate that this new foreign interest in Korean society was precisely the impetus needed to spur on the "formal" study by Korean scholars of their own cultural roots, causing them to devote more of their attention to the country's unique history and folklore.

As a result, shamanism began to play a greater role in the conventional study of Korean history and, in particular, its culture. In recent years we have seen a growth in the investigation into specific aspects of shamanism's roles in Korean culture. Many studies have been done that shed light on shamanism's relation to various aspects of theology, of psychology, and of art forms.

In a recent article, Canda\(^3\) (1989) presented Korean shamanism as a valuable tradition worthy of continuation and assimilation into contemporary society. The movement toward the renewal of this most ancient tradition in Korea appears to have taken on a scope of international significance, exemplified by the topics covered at a recent international conference\(^4\) (1989), *Korea's Minjung Movement: the Origin and Development of Populist Nationalism*.

The purpose of this bibliography is to assist students, researchers, and general readers who are interested in studying aspects of Korean culture and religion in general and shamanism in particular. There are also vast amounts of Korean-language sources available. Sources in English, however, have not been readily accessible and the compiler has tried to remedy this poor access to English-language material. The bibliography is not, however, in any sense comprehensive. The transliteration of the Korean titles follows the McCune-Reishauer romanization system. As a librarian, the compiler had the opportunity to access various bibliographic utilities. As a result the majority of the citations were produced by consulting major national data bases, such as the Library of Congress's Multiple Use MARC System (MUMS), Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN), and Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) as well as some of the online catalogs of major universities. Also consulted were other sources on CD-ROM data bases such as the *Humanities Index, Religion Index, Dissertation Abstracts, Social..."
Sciences Index, and the Korean National Bibliography. The bibliography includes 151 articles (79 authors) and 142 titles of books (101 authors).

In conclusion, the compiler wishes to express her gratefulness to the Indiana University Library which, by providing financial support, made this work possible.

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