

Myth and Meaning in Early Daoism

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The Theme
of Chaos
(Hundun)

N. J. Girardot

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University of Hawaii Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 276 pages. Dimensions: 9.6in. x 7.4in. x 0.6in. **Myth and Meaning in Early Daoism** examines some of the earliest texts associated with the Daoist tradition (primarily the *Daode jing*, *Zhuangzi*, and *Huainanzi*) from the outlook of the comparative history of religions and finds a kind of thematic and soteriological unity rooted in the mythological symbolism of *hundun*, the primal chaos being and principle that is foundational for the philosophy and practice of the Dao as *creatio continua* in cosmic, social, and individual life. Dedicated to the proposition that ancient Chinese texts and traditions are often best understood from a broad interdisciplinary and interpretive perspective, this work when it was written challenged many prevailing conceptions of the *Daode jing* and *Zhuangzi* as primarily philosophical texts without any religious significance or affinity with the later sectarian traditions. While controversial and at times playfully provocative, the methodology and findings of this book are still important for the ongoing scholarship about Daoism in China and the world. This item ships from multiple locations. Your book may arrive from Roseburg, OR, La Vergne, TN. Paperback.

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