

## Contents

---

---

Introduction 1

### PART I. INDIAN MYTHOLOGY AND THE CHINESE IMAGINATION

Chapter 1. Transformation as Imagination in Medieval Popular  
Buddhist Literature 13

*Victor H. Mair*

Chapter 2. Indian Mythology and the Chinese Imagination: Nezha,  
Nalakūbara, and Kṛṣṇa 21

*Meir Shahar*

Chapter 3. Indic Influences on Chinese Mythology: King Yama  
and His Acolytes as Gods of Destiny 46

*Bernard Faure*

Chapter 4. Indian Myth Transformed in a Chinese Apocryphal Text: Two Stories  
on the Buddha's Hidden Organ 61

*Nobuyoshi Yamabe*

### PART II. INDIA IN CHINESE IMAGININGS OF THE PAST

Chapter 5. From Bodily Relic to Dharma Relic Stūpa: Chinese Materialization  
of the Aśoka Legend in the Wuyue Period 83

*Shi Zhiru*

Chapter 6. “Ancestral Transmission” in Chinese Buddhist Monasteries: The Example of the Shaolin Temple <i>Ye Derong</i>	110
Chapter 7. The Hagiography of Bodhidharma: Reconstructing the Point of Origin of Chinese Chan Buddhism <i>John R. McRae</i>	125
<b>PART III. CHINESE RETHINKING OF INDIAN BUDDHISM</b>	
Chapter 8. Is Nirvāṇa the Same as Insentience? Chinese Struggles with an Indian Buddhist Ideal <i>Robert H. Sharf</i>	141
Chapter 9. Karma and the Bonds of Kinship in Medieval Daoism: Reconciling the Irreconcilable <i>Christine Mollier</i>	171
Chapter 10. This Foreign Religion of Ours: Lingbao Views of Buddhist Translation <i>Stephen R. Bokenkamp</i>	182
Glossary	199
Notes	217
Bibliography	269
List of Contributors	299
Index	301