

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix

Prologue 1

The Rise of Esoteric Buddhism 1

Another Middle Ages 4

Rescuing the Gods from Oblivion 6

Sources 10

Project History 13

The Essentialist Fallacy 14

Methodological Caveats 16

Synopsis 19

1. Twists and Turns 23

A Calderian Pantheon 23

Explicit and Implicit Pantheons 25

Naming the Gods 26

The Medieval Logic of Equivalence 28

The Structuralist Model 31

Bipartition and the “Already Structural” 31

Structuralisms 34

Strictures and Structures 35

Sitting under the Banyan Tree 44

Back to Phenomenology? 45

Codetta 47

2. Under the Gaze of the Stars 51

Fear among the Stars 52

Symbols of the Center 53

Ichiji Kinrin 53

Silent Night, Salient Star 58

Aspects of Myōken 59

Royal Symbolism 60

Daoist Origins 60

Myōken in Esoteric Buddhism 64

Myōken and the Seven Stars 64

Development of the Myōken Cult 71

Early Stages 71

The Emergence of Local Traditions 73

The Edo Period 81

Iconography	82
Later Representations	84
The God in the Details	85
The Pace of Yu	86
The Deer Head	87
The Brush and the Register	89
Snakes and Dragons	90
Myōken's Mount	91
The Two Acolytes	92
A Singular Constellation	94
Myōken's <i>Honji</i>	94
Other Links	96
Kichijōten	96
Kannon	97
Baleful Stars	97
Water Deities	101
Mercury	101
Suiten and the <i>Nāgas</i>	101
Rulers of Destiny	101
Enmaten	101
Taishakuten	104
Tendai Protectors	107
Shinra Myōjin	107
Sannō Gongen	107
Other Links	108
Kōjin	108
Marishiten	109
Embryological Symbolism	111
Codetta	112
3. The Elusive Center	115
The Wisdom Kings	116
Indian Prototypes	118
Vajrapāṇi	120
Upward Bound	123
Ritual and Iconography	125
Fudō's Transformations	129
Functions	133
The Apotropaic Function	133
Possession	134
Individual Protection	134
Prolongation of Life	136
Fudō's Cult in Japan	137
Sōō and Fudō	138
Pacification Rituals	139
The Diffusion of the Cult	141
Doctrinal Interpretations	142
Symbolism of the Center	143
Symbol of the Mind	146

Latent Symbolism	148
Fudō as Chthonian Power	149
Fudō's Acolytes	151
Dualism	159
Sexuality	162
Embryology	162
Codetta	164
4. Lust but Not Least	167
The Political Context	167
The Official Aizen	169
Subjugation and Seduction	171
Love Rituals	173
Iconography	176
Aizen Mandalas	176
The God in the Detail	176
Aizen's Network	187
King Yama	187
Myōken	188
Butsugen and Kinrin	189
Amaterasu and Jūichimen Kannon	191
Nyoirin Kannon	194
Aizen and the Three Devas	194
The Embryological God	196
Codetta	198
5. Fearful Symmetry	199
The Two-headed Aizen	199
Aizen and Fudō	200
The Coupling	201
Embryological Readings	202
Aizen and Gōzanze	204
Aizen, Fudō, and the Jewel	206
The Joint Ritual of the Three Worthies	210
Iconography of the <i>Great Matter</i>	211
Fudō and Aizen at Ise	219
The Ophidian Aizen	226
Codetta	230
6. The Hidden Jewel	235
The Cult of the Wish-fulfilling Jewel	236
The Buddha's Relics and the Jewel	236
Ichiji Kinrin and Butsugen	238
Relics as Seed-Syllables	240
Relic Worship	240
The Symbolism of the Jewel	242
Twin Jewels	243
Artificial Jewels	245
Imperial Claims	247

The Jewel Cult of Mount Murō	248
Kenne's Role	249
The Jewel	251
Mount Murō	252
The Dragon	254
Beyond Mount Murō	256
The Threefold Jewel	258
The Adamantine Kūkai	258
Another Genealogy?	265
Codetta	267
7. Living Jewels	271
Jewel Deities	271
Monju and Kokūzō	271
Uhō Dōji and Amaterasu	276
Hachiman	281
Ugajin	285
Nyoirin Kannon	285
A Powerful Incantation	286
The Six Kannon	287
Functions	289
Iconography	289
Development	293
The Seven-star Nyoirin	296
Nyoirin and Divination	299
Nyoirin's Network	300
Benzaiten	300
Nyoirin, Inari, and Ise	301
Nyoirin and Dragon Deities	302
Nyoirin and the Nun Nyoi	304
A Portable Deity	307
Nyoirin's <i>Samaya</i> form	310
The Triadic Structure Redux	314
Codetta	314
Coda	317
Duo à trois	319
Triads and Ternary Structures	319
A Pantheon in Flux	322
More Caveats	322
<i>Abbreviations</i>	329
<i>Notes</i>	331
<i>Bibliography</i>	411
<i>Index</i>	473