

商周之际至上神观念之转变

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[英文提要]

Many believe that the Chinese people practice ancestor worship. A study of past dynasties (ca. 1100 B. C.) show that there was a conscious effort by the ruling class to move away from ancestor worship. The lines from King Wen in the *Book of Odes*, No. 235: "Don't you mind your ancestors! Cultivate your virtue" bear clear witness to this move. Part 1 of this paper is a discussion of this change.

Another common belief is that the Chinese people believe in a multitude of gods. In Part 2 of this paper the author argues against this common belief. He attempts to show that during the Shang and Chou periods, when they moved away from ancestor worship, the Chinese already had the concept of a highest God: "tien" — God of gods and Lord of lords, who does not belong to any particular tribe, but rules all of them.

很多人认为中国传统是崇拜祖先的，认为祖先崇拜成为基督教和中国传统的冲突，阻碍了基督教在中国的发展。其实，在商末周初，中国人对至上神的看法起一个很重要而又影响深远的变化。以前中国人的确是敬拜祖先神的。到了周初，统治者刻意提