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The Fantastic Beings of Ancient India: From 2500 BC to the Vith Century AD, Volume 1

By Zhu Xintian

Franco-Indian Research Pvt. Ltd. / Dev Publishers & Distributors, Mumbai, India, 2012. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. The origin and evolution of fantastic beings and animals, the vyala, have not been deeply studied by scholars so far. The meaning and purpose of these fantastic figures has been lost in a far distant past. Scholars have still different interpretations for the composite animals seen on the Indus Valley seals and the sculptures and statuettes of the early period in INDIA. Yet it is proved in this work, that there is a resemblance between composite animals of the Indus Valley and those discovered in archaeological excavations in the Gangetic Valley, some one thousand years later. The reasons for illustrating supernatural animals seen on early Buddhist monuments-Like Bharut, Sanchi or Amaravati - has not been as yet fully understood. It was therefore necessary to record systematically the composite animals from earliest time and classify them according to their types: terrestrial aquatic of celestial. With this classification, one can observe that these fantastic beings represent the three worlds. The rich amount of fantastic figures in Indian Museum has not attracted sufficient attention of visitors and scholars. On the other hand, some sites are very difficult...



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