

C.N.R. - National Research Institute

MAS - Mongolian Academy of Sciences

# Mongolian shamanism

edited by  
Aldo Colleoni



## ***Foreword***

The present reprint, by University of Trieste and Italy-Mongolia Association, of the central work of Prof. Purev Otgony on Mongolian Shamanism constitutes a further step for the diffusion of the Mongolian religious traditions in the western Countries, especially in concomitance with the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the Great Mongol Empire by Chinggis Khan.

Moreover this new editorial initiative, which follows a recent analogous publication on the “petroglyphs” of the South Gobi region offered to the European reading public, becomes part of the official cultural activities of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) - Mongolia Academy of Sciences (MAS) joint geo-archaeological project, co-financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (M.A.E.) and Region Veneto (Dept. for International Relations). This project started in the year 2000 with the aim of recovering and emphasizing the anthropic and natural resources of the Valley of Lakes (*Bogd soumon*) in southern Gobi area, where many evidences witness durable and significant contacts through centuries of Mongolia with Central Asia and Caspian/Mediterranean basin.

Shamanism finds in Mongolia, since protohistoric times and through Hunnu period to the time of the Great Mongol Empire, one of its genuine cradles in which it has deeply struck root till rising to a true religion followed by the most of the people.

The Author, strongly sustained by ample field researches initiated in the year sixties, offers an exhaustive reconstruction of this long history which spans over millennia, giving a complete description not only of the concepts and rituals, essential to attain higher degrees of consciousness, but also of the social and anthropological aspects which are involved.

We are sure that western scholars and readers will discover original and inedited materials of great interest for a better understanding of the culture of the friend People of Mongolia.

Prof. Bruno Marcolongo  
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