



ZHOU DUNYI'S
'LOVING THE LOTUS'



Dr. John M. Thompson is an associate professor of philosophy and religious studies at Christopher Newport University. He earned his BA in philosophy at William & Mary, his master's of theological studies at Boston University, and completed his doctoral work in the cultural and historical study of religion at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Although his primary areas of expertise are Buddhism and East Asian traditions, he is keenly interested in the intersection of religion, politics and violence through history and in cross-cultural interactions, past and present. His most recent publication is an edited volume titled *Sacred Matters, Stately Concerns: Essays on Faith and Politics in Asia*.

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A Speaker Series Showcasing CNU Faculty

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015
12:30 PM • McMurrin 101

Zhou Dunyi (1017-73) is a highly influential figure in medieval Chinese thought. Commonly regarded as the "founding ancestor" of "Neo-Confucianism," his work established the metaphysical and spiritual framework that dominated East Asian culture well into the modern age. While Zhou's treatises on the *Yijing* are justifiably famous, his poem "On the Love of the Lotus" has received comparatively little attention. This talk will examine Zhou's poem, drawing on such thinkers as Matsuo Basho and Martin Heidegger, showing how Zhou uses his words to open up a way (Dao) into the sagely mind.

☯ LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE DEAN'S OFFICE. ☯

For more information, please contact the series organizer, **Dr. Sheri Shuck-Hall**, at sheri.shuckhall@cnu.edu.