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# Cambridge Elements

Elements in Religion and Violence

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## TIBETAN DEMONOLOGY

Christopher Bell

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# Tibetan Demonology

Elements in Religion and Violence

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**ABSTRACT:** *Tibetan Demonology* discusses the rich taxonomy of gods and demons encountered in Tibet. These spirits are often the cause of, and exhorted for, diverse violent and wrathful activities. This Element consists of four thematic sections. The first section, “Spirits and the Body,” explores oracular possession and spirit-induced illnesses. The second section, “Spirits and Time,” discusses the role of gods in Tibetan astrology and ritual calendars. The third section, “Spirits and Space,” examines the relationship between divinities and the Tibetan landscape. The final section, “Spirits and Doctrine,” explores how certain deities act as fierce protectors of religious and political institutions.

**KEYWORDS:** Tibet, demonology, ritual, demons, gods

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