Second, theism places immense value upon the experience of god, either through symbolism, literature, or mysticism. Thirdly, this god is usually described as the ideal paradigm of moral perfection. Finally, the theist god is conceived of in highly personalistic terms and often comes to worldly fruition in the form of a human incarnation. 

God as Immanent. An early example of theism can be found in Zoroastrianism, the religion of the ancient Persians that still exists today. The supreme deity, Ahura Mazda, represents one of the first deities in human history to be described as inherently good and all-encompassing. Despite Ahura Mazda's transcendent properties, he is able to put into effect his will by way of six angels, or Amesha Spentas. 

Atheism (derived from the Ancient Greek ἄθεος meaning "without gods; godless; secular; denying or disdaining the gods, especially officially sanctioned gods"[1]) is the absence or rejection of the belief that deities exist. The English term was used at least as early as the sixteenth century and atheistic ideas and their influence have a longer history. Over the centuries, atheists have supported their lack of belief in God had waned by the end of the Western Zhou dynasty.

Selections from the Book of Poetry are translated and used to elaborate on the various aspects of early dynastic religion. The historical and social contexts are also discussed alongside the poems to reveal why belief in God had waned by the end of the Western Zhou dynasty.

Abstract
Looking at modern-day China, it can be hard to comprehend that theistic faith was ever widespread among her people. Yet, it was once an integral part of Chinese culture, as evidenced by writings such as the Book of Poetry. In this paper, I seek to explain the ancient Chinese belief in God and why that same belief led to the decline of theistic faith. Selections from the Book of Poetry are translated and used to elaborate on the various aspects of early dynastic religion. The historical and social contexts are also discussed alongside the poems to reveal why belief in God had waned by the end of the Western Zhou dynasty.