



Cicero and the Rise of Deification at Rome

By Spencer Cole

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This book tells a part of the back-story to major religious transformations emerging from the tumult of the late Republic. It considers the dynamic interplay of Cicero's approximations of mortals and immortals with a range of artifacts and activities that were collectively closing the divide between humans and gods. A guiding principle is that a major cultural player like Cicero had a normative function in religious dialogues that could legitimize incipient ideas like deification. Applying contemporary metaphor theory, it analyzes the strategies and priorities configuring Cicero's divinizing encomia of Roman dynasts like Pompey, Caesar and Octavian. It also examines Cicero's explorations of apotheosis and immortality in the *De re publica* and *Tusculan Disputations* as well as his attempts to deify his daughter Tullia. In this book, Professor Cole transforms our understanding not only of the backgrounds to ruler worship but also of changing conceptions of death and the afterlife.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Spencer Cole is Assistant Professor in the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Minnesota. His publications include articles on Roman religion in both the republican and imperial periods, Augustan poetry, and Greek drama. He is also a contributor to The Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions.

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