Trees in the Religion and Folklore of the Konda Reddi of South India

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ABSTRACT This paper examines the continuity between man and nature in tribal thought contrary to the Western dualism between nature and culture. As a case study, it probes into the cosmology. World view, religion and ritual, and folksongs of the Konda Reddi of Andhra Pradesh to establish the deep interconnectedness between men and trees. As the components of the same ecocosmology, it shows the mythical links between men and trees that bind them together in moral terms, thus ensuring the protection of selected species.