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Shinto The Kami Way

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SHINTO

THE KAMI WAY

道



SOKYO ONO



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Synopsis

"An excellently rounded introduction by an eminent Shinto scholar." —Library Journal
Shinto, the indigenous faith of the Japanese people, continues to fascinate and mystify both the casual visitor to Japan and the long-time resident. Relatively unknown among the religions of the world, *Shinto: The Kami Way* provides an enlightening window into this Japanese faith. In its general aspects Shinto is more than a religious faith. It is an amalgam of attitudes, ideas, and ways of doing things that through two millennia and more have become an integral part of the way of the Japanese people. Shinto is both a personal faith in the kami — objects of worship in Shinto and an honorific for noble, sacred spirits — and a communal way of life according to the mind of the kami. This introduction unveils Shinto's spiritual characteristics and discusses the architecture and function of Shinto shrines. Further examination of Shinto's lively festivals, worship, music, and sacred regalia illustrates Shinto's influence on all levels of Japanese life. Fifteen photographs, numerous drawings and Dr. Ono's text introduce the reader to two millennia of indigenous Japanese belief in the kami and in communal life. Chapters include: The Kami Way, Shrines, Worship and Festivals, Political and Social Characteristics, Some Spiritual Characteristics.

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Sokyo Ono's "Shinto: The Kami Way" is the best overview of Shinto I have ever read, and I've read a LOT of books on the religions of Japan over the past thirty years! William Woodard's translation is very readable. Perhaps most helpful is Ono Sensei's comparison-contrast between Japanese understanding of seven-fold nature of Kami and Western understandings of God. I also found especially interesting the focus on purification. I have recommended and given copies of this book to many people through the years. The Kindle version I recently purchased is helpful because it won't disappear from my office library!

As someone who is interested in all things Japanese, I was really excited to read Dr. Sokyo Ono's Shinto: The Kami Way. This book is held as the standard introduction to Shinto for Western readers, and for the most part, I wasn't disappointed. The author, a recognized expert on the subject, presents Shinto to the reader in plain, simple language. The bare essentials of Shinto are explored, including the architecture and layout of Shinto shrines and the rituals and festivals that are celebrated within. Unfortunately, I was seeking a more philosophical discussion of Shinto, and the author really only includes a short chapter in the back of the book that delves into the actual beliefs of Shinto. Still, the influence of Shinto on the daily life of the Japanese is addressed throughout the book and gives Western readers a glimpse into the way the Japanese have evolved along with their indigenous beliefs. I would recommend this book to all readers interested in world religions and philosophies. This is definitely a must-read for anyone who hopes to understand the Japanese people even a little bit.

THIS BOOK IS AN EXCELLENT INTRODUCTION TO JAPANS MOST FOLLOWED RELIGION. THE BOOK GIVES THE READER A GLANCE INTO THE QUALTIE, TRADITIONS AND THE BACK GROUND OF THIS MOST SPIRITIAL WAY OF FAITH.

First impression, tiny book, TINY book! \$11 bucks for an almost pamphlet sized "book". I'll adjust my review later after reading it, shouldn't take long!! settled on 4 stars after reading it through. Like so much in Japan, what seems simple proves complex and Vice a versa. Not much new knowledge for me yet somehow I feel better after reading it. I was married in a Shinto Shrine and lived in Japan for

5 years, always felt good in and around Shrines. The book leaves me wanting more but maybe that's a good thing.

This book is very sufficient for beginners; it properly envelopes the boundaries of Shinto and it gives adequate information about the cultural fabric of this believe system.

Since there is not much available on the subject, what you get here is worth getting but it never seems to break the surface of the subject. It is very cursory and you get the feeling that the author was a western outsider who really did not understand it either. It covers little more than can be gleaned on wikipedia these days. Worth reading though.

I now have a better understanding of Shintoism and I feel more connected with more than before!

Could have had better explanations. But it did give me a better understanding of Shinto and how it sees the world. Also it seems to be from the 1960s and some things might be out of date.

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