

Shinto

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this volume investigates and present the salient features of
shinto through a long history of development from its remote past
up to the present it is a historical study of shinto from a
scientific point of view illustrating the higher aspects of the
religion compile on strict lines of religious comparison

shinto a short history provides an introductory outline of the
historical development of shinto from the ancient period of
japanese history until the present day shinto does not offer a
readily identifiable set of teachings rituals or beliefs
individual shrines and kami deities have led their own lives not
within the confines of a narrowly defined shinto but rather as
participants in a religious field that included buddhist taoist
confucian and folk elements thus this book approaches shinto as a
series of historical religious systems rather than attempting to

identify a timeless shinto essence this history focuses on three aspects of shinto practice the people involved in shrine worship the institutional networks that ensured continuity and teachings and rituals by following the interplay between these aspects in different periods a pattern of continuity and discontinuity is revealed that challenges received understandings of the history of shinto this book does not presuppose prior knowledge of japanese religion and is easily accessible for those new to the subject

this book presents for the first time a collection of ancient japanese shinto prayers in a format where english speaking readers can both understand the deep meaning of the translated text and can also pronounce the original japanese words shinto is an ancient spiritual tradition primarily practiced in japan which is now spreading its traditions to the western world its primordial rituals and traditions touch a deep chord within one's spiritual self shinto's focus on divinity of all beings and of all creation on living with gratitude and humility and on purification and lustration of one's self and environment will bring light and joy to any reader the purpose of prayer and ritual as practiced in the shinto tradition is to reinsert ourselves into a divine state of being not as a new position but as an acknowledgement and reinforcement of what already exists ritual restores sensitive awareness to our relationship to the universe through purification and removal of impurities and blockages we return to our innate internal brightness and cultivate a demeanor of gratitude and joy shinto rituals and prayers were created by ancient man over 2 000 years ago in a time when mankind was more intuitive about his relationship to this world because of this the rites are archetypal and invoke deep emotion within the participants this book of prayers will introduce the western reader to the deep spirituality of shinto providing explanation of the spiritual tradition and practice and providing a collection of 22 prayers for use in personal meditation and devotions order a perfect bound version of shinto norito

shinto the national indigenous religion of japan has supplied japan with the basic structure of its mentality and behaviour although its classical texts have been translated into english this volume was the first major study of this important religion the book is a complete picture of shinto its history and internal organization its gods and mythology its temples and priests its

moral and worship the volume also describes the metaphysics mystic and spiritual disciplines and overall is one of the most authentic and authoritative surveys of shinto of the twentieth century

helen hardacre offers for the first time in any language a sweeping comprehensive history of shinto the tradition that is practiced by some 80 of the japanese people and underlies the institution of the emperor

offers an introduction to shinto this guide presents descriptions of the key concepts beliefs and practices

the essays in this volume cover a wide range of topics on shinto and kami in history including the profound formative influence of taoism on shinto in early japan the relationship between shrine cults and nature and the role of shrine and temple ritual in the japanese state of the heian period

this accessible guide to the development of japan s indigenous religion from ancient times to the present day offers an illuminating introduction to the myths sites and rituals of kami worship and their role in shinto s enduring religious identity offers a unique new approach to shinto history that combines critical analysis with original research examines key evolutionary moments in the long history of shinto including the meiji revolution of 1868 and provides the first critical history in english or japanese of the hie shrine one of the most important in all japan traces the development of various shrines myths and rituals through history as uniquely diverse phenomena exploring how and when they merged into the modern notion of shinto that exists in japan today challenges the historic stereotype of shinto as the unchanging all defining core of japanese culture

scholarly studies on shinto usually focus only on one of its dimensions shinto as a nature religion an imperial state religion a primal religion or a folk amalgam of practices and beliefs thomas kasulis explains how these different aspects interrelate

one of japan s major religions shinto has no doctrines and there are no sacred texts from which religious authority can be derived it does not have an identifiable historical founder and it has survived the vicissitudes of history through rituals and symbols rather than through continuity of doctrine shinto is primarily a

religion of nature centered on the cultivation of rice the basis of a culture with which the western world is not familiar in terms of either its annual cycle or the kind of lifestyle it generates the roots of the shinto tradition probably precede this and reflect an awareness of the natural order the oldest shrines came to be located in places that inspired awe and wonder in their observers such as the great fall of nachi in kumano or in mountains that conveyed a sense of power the expanded second edition of the historical dictionary of shinto relates the history of shinto through a chronology an introductory essay an extensive bibliography and over 800 cross referenced dictionary entries on shinto concepts significant figures places activities and periods scholars and students will find the overviews and sources for further research provided by this book to be enormously helpful

in shinto the ancient religion of japan w g aston meticulously explores the intricate tapestry of shinto japan s indigenous faith through a scholarly lens aston employs a richly descriptive literary style that seamlessly weaves together historical analysis cultural context and religious significance his work situates shinto within the broader landscape of japanese history and spirituality analyzing its rituals myths and influence on japanese identity this comprehensive examination not only illuminates shinto s ancient origins but also its evolution through centuries of political change and cultural exchange w g aston a pioneering british japanologist dedicated his life to the study of japan s language and culture his deep engagement with japanese literature and religious practices alongside his experiences as a translator and diplomat in japan provided him unique insights into shinto s intricate dynamics aston s academic background in linguistics and his passion for japanese culture influenced his objective to present shinto not merely as a religion but as a vital aspect of japan s national consciousness for readers seeking to deepen their understanding of japan s cultural and spiritual heritage aston s work is indispensable it offers a profound exploration of shinto s role in shaping japanese society and its enduring relevance in contemporary japan making it an essential read for scholars and enthusiasts alike in this enriched edition we have carefully created added value for your reading experience a succinct introduction situates the work s timeless appeal and themes the synopsis outlines the central plot highlighting key developments without spoiling critical twists a detailed historical context

immerses you in the era's events and influences that shaped the writing a thorough analysis dissects symbols motifs and character arcs to unearth underlying meanings reflection questions prompt you to engage personally with the work's messages connecting them to modern life hand-picked memorable quotes shine a spotlight on moments of literary brilliance interactive footnotes clarify unusual references historical allusions and archaic phrases for an effortless more informed read

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the diplomat and scholar william george aston 1841 1911 was the author of several highly regarded publications particularly on japanese language published in 1907 and based on the study of early written sources this short work is an introduction to the history and practices of shinto the indigenous religion of japan

shinto is a remarkably complex and elusive phenomenon to which western categories of religion do not readily apply a knowledge of shinto can only proceed from a basic understanding of japanese shrines and civilization for it is closely intermingled with the japanese way of life and continues to be a vital natural religion this companion to pickens's first volume essentials of shinto an analytical guide to principal teachings provides a selection of

important and pivotal documents in the history of the shinto tradition this volume contains a collection of texts and materials related to the shinto tradition from the classical age of japan to modern times selections from the japanese classics are followed by liturgical texts and relevant historical documents from the nara and heian periods next documents relating to the period of state shinto are followed by laws regulating imperial household shinto both pre and post world war ii this is followed by a brief selection of writings related to shinto and the new religions the remainder of the book is occupied by selections of texts firstly on shinto thought from the 13th century to the meiji restoration of 1868 the four closing chapters document early and recent western views of shinto and a selection of japanese writings covering the same period finally the appendixes include the official list of emperors and the nation s oldest shrines

reproduction of the original shinto by w g aston

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