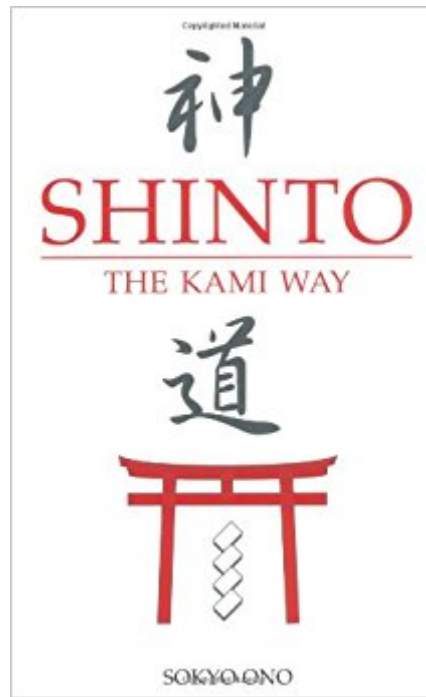


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Shinto The Kami Way



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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Shinto: The Kami Way," by Sokyo Ono, is an overview of Shinto, which the author defines as "the indigenous faith of the Japanese people." William P. Woodard is given an "in collaboration with" credit on the title page, and also contributes a preface. The book also features illustrations by Sadao

Sakamoto, who is identified on the title page as a Priest of the Yasukuni Shrine. The title page and back cover offer some information on author Ono, who is identified as a Professor at Kokogakuin University, a Shinto university in Tokyo, and as a Lecturer for the Association of Shinto Shrines. The foreword by Hideo Kishimoto notes that this book was first published in 1960; the copyright page notes further that the Tuttle edition has a copyright date of 1962, and has gone through 30 printings as of 2003. The book is generously illustrated not only with Sakamoto's drawings, but also with many black-and-white photographs. The book is relatively short (116 plus xii pages), and the main text is divided into five chapters: "The Kami Way," "Shrines," "Worship and Festivals," "Political and Social Characteristics," and "Some Spiritual Characteristics." The text covers many Shinto topics: mythology, important historic texts, the use of symbolic artifacts, the distinctive gateways known as torii, shrine architecture, the priesthood, home worship, sacred dances, Shinto's centuries-old relationship with Japanese Buddhism, emperor worship, tree worship, sacred mountains, ethics and more. Ono also discusses the kami, which he describes as "the objects of worship in Shinto."

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