



Shintoism

“the way of the god’s”

By:

Elizabeth Harrell & Gray Nichols

Origin of Shintoism

- “Even the wishes of an ant reach to heaven.”
- Shintoism started in Japan and it is a teaching of the god’s or a way to the god’s.
- “Kami” means God or deity.
- Salvation for the Shinto is for a whole nation not just selected individuals.
- Out of the many gods in Shinto, the “supreme goddess” is Kami Amaterasu, which is the sun goddess.
- It is one of the oldest religions and was founded around 500 B.C.
- It is not popular outside of Japan.

Pictures!

- TORII



(main Shinto symbol)

- Kami



(sun god)

Purpose of Man

- Man is “Kami’s” child and is without original sin.
- Man is here to follow the ten precepts of Shinto.
- If man sticks to Guru, spiritual preceptor, he will find god in his afterlife.
- They believe the dead go to “yomi” which is related to the Greek underworld Hades.

The Ten Precepts of Shinto

- i) Do not transgress the will of the gods.
- ii) Do not forget your obligations to ancestors.
- iii) Do not offend by violating the decrees of the State.
- iv) Do not forget the profound goodness of the, gods, through which calamity and misfortunes are averted and sickness is healed.
- v) Do not forget that the world is one great family.
- vi) Do not forget the limitations of your own person.
- vii) Do not become angry even though others become angry.
- viii) Do not be sluggish in your work.
- ix) Do not bring blame to the teaching.
- x) Do not be carried away by foreign teachings.

Holy Places

- The Kami Sanctuary (Honden) is a sacred place that contains Kami's spirit.
- The Worship Hall (Haiden) is where communion and food offering to Kami take place.
- The sacred tree is a symbol by which the Shrine was made.
- Ise Shrine contains all these holy places.

Pictures

- Shrine



The sacred tree

- Honden



Holidays

- Jan. 1- Oshogatsu (or Shogatsu) is the New Year festival where people visit the shrine.
- Jan. 15- Seijin shiki is the day to celebrate reaching adulthood (20 years of age). It is common to attend the shrine and give thanks on this day
- Nov. 23- Niinamesei is the labor thanksgiving day.

festivals

- Hatsumode 初詣 - the first shrine visit of the new year.
- Miyamairi 宮参り - This is the Christening's or "baptism" one month after birth.
- Harai 祓い - this is a time of cleansing and purification.
- Jichinsai 地鎮祭 - purification of the ground where buildings are to be constructed.

Pictures!

- Miyamairi



Christening

- Seijin shiki



adulthood

Places of worship

- A shrine is a Shinto place of worship where the Shinto gods dwell.
- Shrines are usually found in natural settings.
- Ichinomiya means the most important shrine in a providence.

Pictures!

- Shrine



Customs

- Some customs are visiting the shrine, participating in festivals. Also they dedicate ceremonies to kami.
- In addition, they wear omamori charms to help and protect them. Washing themselves in a river is not unusual.
- They also share a close bond with their religious community.
- The most important festival is visiting the new year shrine and nature is extremely important in their religion.

Pictures!

- Omamori charms
- New year shrine



cleansing



Burial practices

Three main stages of burial

1. The kich-fuda- this is a time of mourning. During this time the family and friends wear black and have prayer beads
2. The koden- during this time friends of the family bring gifts to the immediate family.
3. bunkotsu- this is the time when the ashes of the dead are given to the family to keep in their home shrines.

Pictures!

- Shinto burial traditions



Scripture/holy books

The holy book of shinto is the o'dno jing which is the book of salvation.

Some important text of the shinto are kojiki and nihon, which were written in the 8th century telling the origin of the world and other events.

Pictures!

- Shinto holy book writings



SOURCES

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