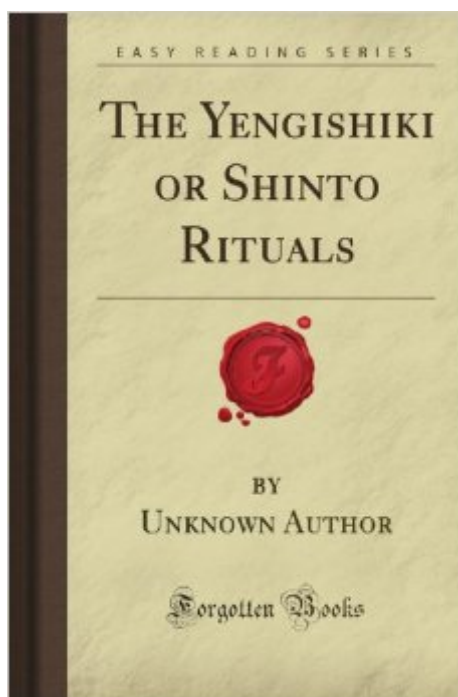


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The Yengishiki Or Shinto Rituals (Forgotten Books)



Synopsis

Shinto ("the way of the gods") is the indigenous faith of the Japanese people and as old as Japan herself. It remains Japan's major religion besides Buddhism. "Shinto gods" are called kami. They are sacred spirits which take the form of things and concepts important to life, such as wind, rain, mountains, trees, rivers and fertility. Humans become kami after they die and are revered by their families as ancestral kami. The kami of extraordinary people are even enshrined at some shrines. The Sun Goddess Amaterasu is considered Shinto's most important kami. In contrast to many monotheist religions, there are no absolutes in Shinto. There is no absolute right and wrong, and nobody is perfect. Shinto is an optimistic faith, as humans are thought to be fundamentally good, and evil is believed to be caused by evil spirits. Consequently, the purpose of most Shinto rituals is to keep away evil spirits by purification, prayers and offerings to the kami. (Quote from japan-guide.com)

About the Author Basil Hall Chamberlain (1850 - 1935) Basil Hall Chamberlain (18 October 1850 - 15 February 1935), was a professor of Tokyo Imperial University and one of the foremost British Japanologists active in Japan during the late 19th century. (Others included E. M. Satow and W. G. Aston.) He also wrote some of the earliest translations of haiku into English. He is perhaps best remembered for his informal and popular one-volume encyclopedia Things Japanese, which first appeared in 1890 and which he revised several times thereafter. His interests were diverse, and his works included a volume of poetry in French. (Quote from (Quote from (Quote from (Quote from wikipedia.org))))

About the Publisher Forgotten Books is a publisher of historical writings, such as: Philosophy, Classics, Science, Religion, History, Folklore and Mythology. <http://www.forgottenbooks.org>

Book Information

Paperback: 26 pages

Publisher: Forgotten Books (May 7, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1605069477

ISBN-13: 978-1605069470

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,254,627 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts > Shintoism

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