



ORIGIN OF SHINTO

- Mythology and History
 - Lineage of the Emperor
- Important Documents for Shinto
 - Kojiki (*Chronicles of Ancient Times*), 712
 - Nihonsyoki (*Chronicles of Japan*), 720
- The Relationship with Buddhism

A Diversity of Shinto Shrines



The Grand Shrine of Ise

- Main Gods : Amaterasu (Sun Goddess),
Toyooké (Food Goddess)
- Shikinen-sengu (the rebuilding year)
 - Every twenty year a new shrine is built on the
alternative site.



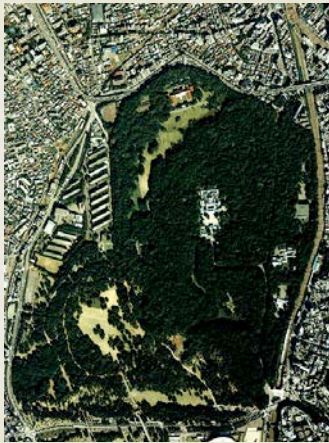
FUSHIMI INARI

- Founded in ca.708~715
- Main God : Ukano-mitama (god of fertility,
fortune and fields)
- The head of some 30,000 Inari shrines
throughout Japan
- The fox has been thought of as a messenger of
the god.



MIWA SHRINE

- Main god : Oomno-nushi (*Chronicles of Japan*)
- This shrine is believed to be the oldest shrine.
- No *honden* building, wherein the *shintai* or sacred object is contained, because the *kami*-presence is an entire holy mountain, that is, Mt. Miwa.



MEIJI SHRINE

- Founded in 1920
- Main gods: the Emperor Meiji (died in 1912) and the Empress Shoken (died in 1914)



YASUKUNI SHRINE

- Founded in 1869
- Main gods: spirits of those who have died in Japan's modern war, including the political figures judged as the A-class war criminals of the WWII



KITANO TENMANGU

- Founded in 947
- Main god : Sugawara Michizane (845-903)
- The head of some 11,000 *Tenjin* family of shrines
 - *Tenjin*=heavenly kami=Michizane=a defied human being who has been considered a patron of learning and the arts of peace
- A sitting cow: a typical symbol of Tenjin faith

ON THE IMADEGAWA CAMPUS



What is a *kami* (god/deity)?

THE DEFINITION BY MOTOORI NORINAGA

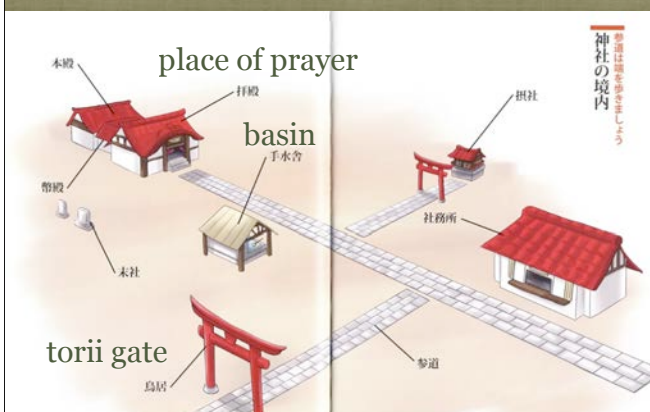
• Norinaga (1730-1801) commented that a kami is anything that can fill us with wonder and awe.

1. gods in the *Chronicles of Ancient Times*
2. gods in the shrines
3. defied majestic persons, such as an emperor or hero
4. gods in nature, such as splendid old trees, waterfalls, or mountain peaks



General Features of Shinto

1. PURITY VS. IMPURITY



2. TRADITIONALISM

- Daijo-sai, Niname-sai (Harvest Festival)
- Two types of authority to change/reinforce tradition
 - The emperor as living *kami*, especially in the Meiji period
 - Shamans who were believed to channel a new revelation from a *kami*

3. PRACTICES

- Matsuri (festival)
- pilgrimage

SHINTO WEDDING

Shinto Wedding
in the Sumiyoshi Shrine, Osaka

神前結婚式
- 住吉大社 -

2008年5月24日 (土)

4. SOCIOLOGICAL ROLE

- company and community festival
- cornerstone-laying rites
 - Shinto priests are brought in to preform the rites to purify edifices before use.

POLYTHEISM

- The “eight hundred myriads” of *kami*
- Qualitative difference to monotheism

SPIRITED AWAY (2001)

