

Shinto

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Founder/founding story/how spread

Shinto does not have a single founder, but their founding story was Japan's nationalist leadership expelled Buddhist influence from kami worship and it spreaded through communal ritual.

Basic Beliefs/Doctrine

The main basic beliefs of Shinto are the importance of purity, harmony, respect for nature, family respect, and subordination of the individual before the group.

Shinto is an optimistic faith, as humans are thought to be fundamentally good, and evil is believed to be caused by evil spirits

Holy Books

The holy books of Shinto are the Kojiki or 'Records of Ancient Matters'.

These books are compilations of ancient myths and traditional teachings that had previously been passed down.



MS 5327
Kojiki, Records of Ancient Matters; Furukotofumi, Sacred Book of Shinto, Japan, 1803

Major Holidays/Festivals

Some major holidays for shintoism are:

Shinto festivals - Matsuri.

Oshogatsu (New Year)

Seijin Shiki (Adults' Day)

Haru Matsuri (Spring festivals)

Aki Matsuri (Autumn festivals)

Shichigosan.

Rei-sai (Annual Festival)

Divisions

- Shrine Shintō
- Sect Shintō
- Folk Shintō

World today

Today, Shinto is the largest religion in Japan, and the majority of Japanese people practice a combination of Shintoism and Buddhism. Non-Japanese people have received certification as Shinto priests, and Shinto shrines can be found around the world, including in the United States, Brazil, the Netherlands and the Republic of San Marino.



Role of women

- Women in Shinto are described as miko, or "Children of God."
- Women were able to be Shinto priestesses after the ban was lifted in 1945.
- Women were excluded from many Shinto shrines and sacred mountains until about 1872 when this practice was abolished under the Meiji constitution.
- Women In the earliest records of Shinto were valued as representatives, and carriers, of fertility. But some scholars suggest that priesthood at this time was seen as a dual role shared by men and women, operating together, often as brother and sister.

Symbols

- Maneke Neko
- Tomoe
- Omamori
- Torri Gate
- Jizo
- Magatama

