

## Informal Essay of Japanese lore and religion

After the last post, I think we have discussed how the lore has been applied to pop culture such as manga, anime or video game. I am going to talk about how the old Japanese lore affects religion and culture.

Actually, the base concept of Japanese culture is a kind of ancestor worship and knowing this would be a basic requirement of learning Japanese culture. Not only Japanese but also almost all East Asia culture is based on ancestor worship. People believe their ancestor or their dead relatives would protect them. In Japan all religions, culture is based on this concept. Of course, native Japanese religion would also be affected by this concept. Another important point for Japanese mental or philosophy concept is the different view of life and death. Most Japanese believes in the reincarnation. This concept comes from the Buddhism and have been developed by Japanese to mixed into their outlook on life.

As we know, there are three different mainstream religions or beliefs in Japan, Shinto, Buddhism, and Christian. Due to the familiarity with Christian, I should skip this part. About the Buddhism, there is another slang here for describing the relationship between Shinto and Buddhism. "Ask Shinto when you alive, ask Buddhism after your death." In Japan, the Buddhism has already been mixed with Shinto deeply because of "syncretism of kami and buddhas". The Shinto is the religion which comes from the ancient animism. It's a mix of Buddhism, animism, ancestor worship and so on. It's

important to say that due to the Japanese native religion is the Shinto, most worshiped gods come from the old Japanese lore.

Just use the character which we used in the last post, the god Susanoo who slew the snake monster 'Orochi' and found the sword Kusanagi also be worshiped by people.

There is a Shinto shrine which the name is 'Kumano' worship the god Susanoo every year so far. It's so amazing that just as amazing as finding a Zeus belief right now. The traces of myths history would be found there just like what we found on Acropolis of Athens, and the pre-requirement for that is just having some lore and religion knowledge.