

神道への道 – the road to Shinto

This list is made for the people who seeking for further information and have met the ability to read the Japanese language directly.

For beginner: (English)

Shinto Wikipedia here

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shinto>

Shinto dictionary

<http://eos.kokugakuin.ac.jp/modules/xwords/>

official website of association of Shinto shrines

<https://www.jinjahoncho.or.jp/en/>

For further research: (Japanese)

伊藤聡『神道とは何か』中央公論新社〈中公新書〉、2012 年。ISBN 978-4-12-102158-8。

神田千里『宗教で読む戦国時代』講談社〈講談社選書メチエ〉、2010 年。ISBN 978-4-06-258459-3。

Here is a list of Shinto unique basic concepts: (Japanese)

御神体 In Shinto,shintai, or go-shintai when the honorific prefix go- is used, are physical objects worshipped at or near Shinto shrines as repositories in which spirits or kami reside. Shintai used in Shrine Shinto can be also called mitamashiro.

神社 A Shinto shrine is a structure whose main purpose is to house one or more kami. Its most important building is used for the safekeeping of sacred objects, and not for worship.

本殿 The honden, also called shinden (神殿) (see gallery) is the most sacred building of shrine, intended purely for the use of the enshrined kami. The kami, in itself incorporeal, is usually represented physically by a mirror or sometimes by a statue. The building is normally in the rear of the shrine and closed to the general public. The sections Most common shrine styles and Other styles below are dedicates specifically to honden and their characteristics.

拝殿 The haiden (see gallery below) is the hall of worship or oratory of the shrine. It is generally placed in front of the shrine's main sanctuary (honden) and often built on a larger scale than the latter. The haiden is often connected to the honden by a heiden, or hall of offerings. While the honden is the place for the enshrined kami and off-limits to the general public, the haiden provides a space for ceremonies and for worshipping the kami.

幣殿 The heiden (see gallery below) is the part of a shrine used to house offerings, and normally consists of a section linking the honden and the haiden . It can also be called chūden (中殿) or in other ways, and its position can sometimes vary. In spite of its name, nowadays it is used mostly for rituals.

鳥居 The torii (see gallery below) is a gate which marks the entrance to a sacred area, usually but not necessarily a shrine. A shrine may have any number of torii (Fushimi Inari Taisha has thousands) made of wood, stone, metal, concrete or any other material. They can be found in different places within a shrine's precincts to signify an increased level of holiness.

Torii can often be found also at Buddhist temples, however they are an accepted symbol of Shinto, and as such are used to mark shrines on maps.

The origin of the torii is unclear, and no existing theory has been accepted as valid. They may for example have originated in India as a derivative of the torana gates in the monastery of Sanchi, which is located in central India.

神仏習合 Shinbutsu-shūgō (神仏習合, "syncretism of kami and buddhas"), also called Shinbutsu-konkō (神仏混淆, "jumbling up" or "contamination of kami and buddhas"), is the syncretism of Buddhism and kami worship that was Japan's only organized religion up until the Meiji period. Beginning in 1868, the new Meiji government approved a series of laws that separated Japanese native kami worship, on one side, from Buddhism which had assimilated it, on the other.