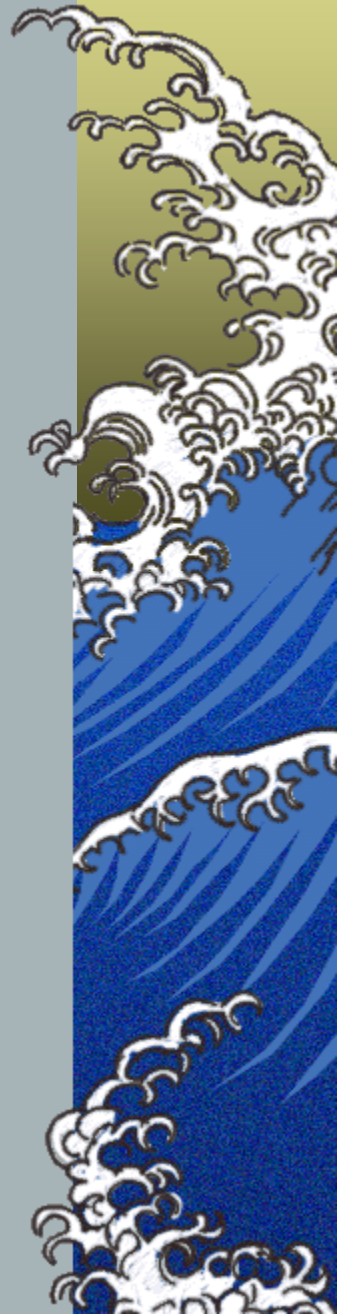


神道

SHINTO

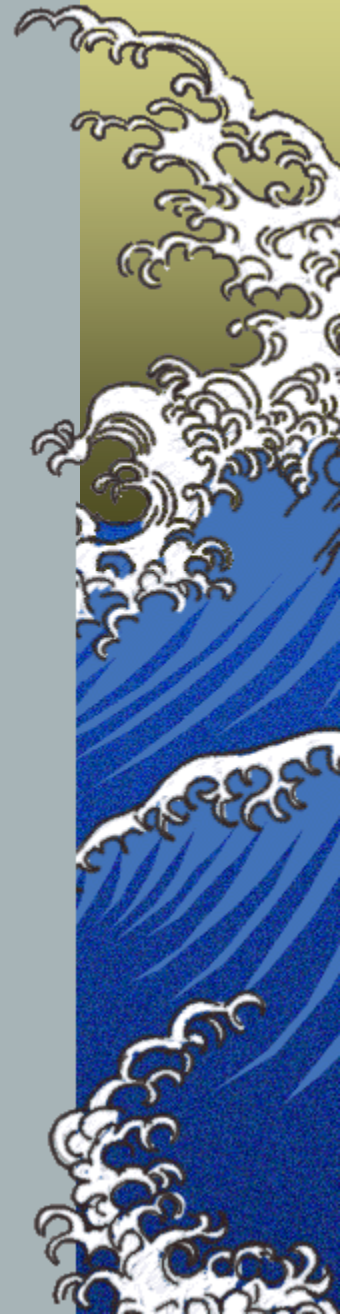
The Way of the Gods

Japan's Indigenous
Religion



Geography of Japan

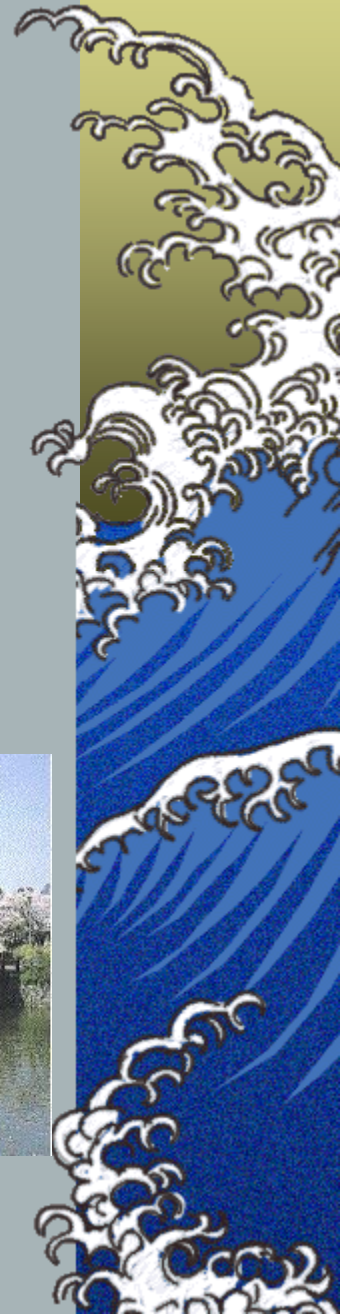
- *Archipelago*
- *Volcanoes*
- *Mountainous*
- *Oceans*
- *Little Arable Land*
- *Lacks Natural Resources*





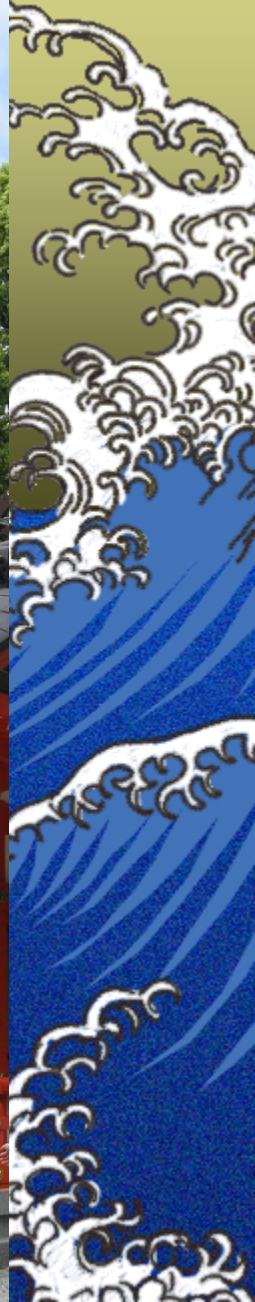
Why Shintoism in Modern Japan?

1. *Early Japanese lived isolated Clans Lived in Mountain Valleys*
2. *Each clan had its own kami*
3. *A kami is a nature deity or spirit*
4. *Creator Gods*



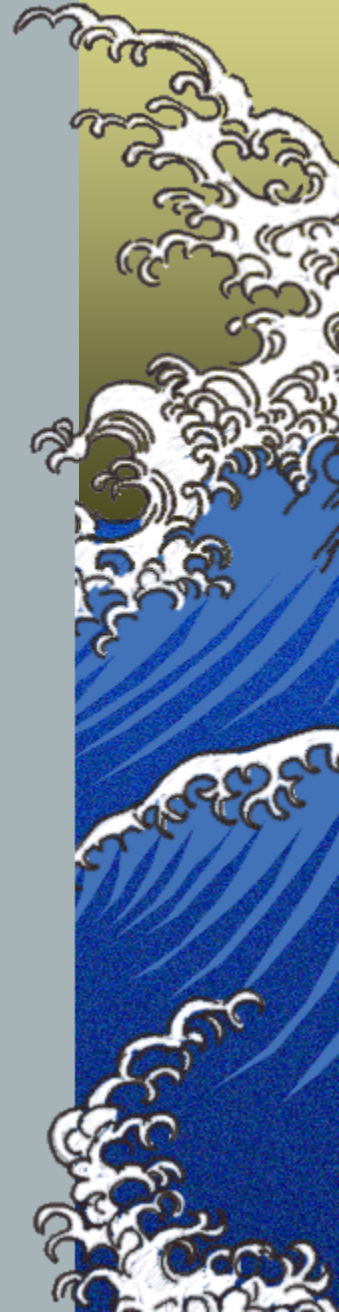
“Shinto has no scripture and no founder. In that sense, we are different from the major religions of the world.”

Shinto priest Takashizu Sato



There are "*Four Affirmations*" in Shinto

- ▶ *Tradition and the family: The family is seen as the main mechanism by which traditions are preserved. Their main celebrations relate to birth and marriage.*
- ▶ *Love of nature: Nature is sacred; to be in contact with nature is to be close to the Gods. Natural objects are worshipped as sacred spirits.*
- ▶ *Physical cleanliness: Followers of Shinto take baths, wash their hands, and rinse out their mouth often.*
- ▶ *"Matsuri": The worship and honor given to the Kami and ancestral spirits.*



Shinto is not like most religions.

- ▶ *No founder, written scriptures or religious law.*
- ▶ *Most Japanese citizens practice two religions: Shinto and Buddhism.*
- ▶ *Believers respect animals as messengers of the gods.*
- ▶ *“Mamori” are charms worn as an aid in healing and protection.*
- ▶ *An altar “kami-dana” is given a central place in many homes.*



神 Kami

- *Followers of Shinto worship the spirits (or kami) that live in nature.*
 - *Every part of nature is thought to be animated by a spirit (god).*
 - *These gods are called kami.*
 - *They dwell in nature, but can protect people. They are seen as good; they help and protect people.*
 - *People pray to them and make offerings, such as wine, food, or incense.*



Kami play an important role in life.

- *The kami are consulted before important events.*
- *Believers look into the Shinto calendar for a lucky day when all the gods will work in favor of the event.*
- *Offerings are made at these events to bring good luck.*



The human problem

- ▶ *There is no sense of original sin in Shinto (as something inherited)*
- ▶ *There is a sense of moral evil (as opposed to natural evil)*
- ▶ *Evil is an intruder from outside; it does not belong here*

