

Sho-shūkyō Jiten (Dictionary of Various Religions)

by Antei Hiyane

Tokyo: Seibun Sha, 1963, pp. 596. ¥1,000.

The author of this handy *Dictionary of Various Religions*, Dr. Antei Hiyane, is a well known Christian scholar of the History of Religions. In fact, he appears to be the only Japanese Christian scholar in this field with a doctorate from a Japanese university. He is the author of numerous articles and a number of books on religions, including *A History of Religion (Shūkyō Shi)*, which was written jointly with the late Dr. Masaharu Anezaki. The present volume covers the entire field of religions outside those of the Old and New Testament tradition. It constitutes, a source-book for Japanese students who wish only short sketches about numerous people, events, doctrines, etc., in the

field of religion. For the Western student, who will probably go to other sources for information about non-Japanese religions, it will provide a convenient introduction to numerous words and names which heretofore have meant nothing to him and about which he would like to learn at least something. As a means of learning new Chinese characters and also something about Japanese religions, the volume should be especially useful.

It appears that Dr. Hiyane depended heavily on the *Shin Bukkyō Jiten*, edited by Dr. Hajime Nakamura, (pub. Seishin Shobō), because he committed some of the same errors. Again it is difficult to determine accurately any dates

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in the life of Sakyamuni although we are sure that he did not live to be 100 or 103 years old, as would appear to be the case from the item on page 249 which states that he seems to have been born about 486—483 B. c. and died 383 B. c.). Moreover, the author gives April 8 as the date of his birth, Dec. 8 for his attainment of the Great Enlightenment, and Feb. 15 for his death; but the best Buddhist scholarship does not accept these dates as accurate. The author should have exercised more care in the following: *Nihonkoku Genpo Zenaku*

Ryoiki (p. 406) is said to “consist of 39 short stories,” but the fact is that it contains 112 stories; and Myoko Nagnuma of Rissho Kasei Kai was not, as stated in p. 571, an adopted daughter of Niwano.

Among typographical errors noted are Motsuji (p. 541) for Moetsuji, and Yanagita, Kunio (p. 552) for Yanagida, Kunio.

Finally, the authors principle for romanizing Sanskrit and Japanese words is not clear.

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