

The Kami Way : An Introduction to Shrine Shinto

By Dr. Sokyō Ono

in collaboration with William P. Woodard

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(“*The Kami Way*” will be published this fall by
Charles E. Tuttle Co.)

“*The Kami Way*” although a book of scarcely 120 pages, manages to compress into pocket size a comprehensive and authentic survey of Shinto, the ancestral, indigenous faith of the Japanese people.

Dr. Sokyō Ono, the author is widely known as a professor in Kokugakuin Daigaku, the only national Shinto university in Japan. In addition to his academic competency he is extensively active as a lecturer for the Association of Shinto Shrines in the training

of priests for their practical work.

In the five chapters, the major aspects of Shinto are very adequately covered. The character of this faith in history, its functions of worship, its relation to modern society, to the Emperor and to the State, its interaction with the other religious systems, and its basic teachings and view of life,—all these and more will be found treated with accuracy and with a genuine depth of interpretation.

The author, in staking out his

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claim for the place of Shinto in Japan's multi-faith world, unquestionably encloses far more ground than is ordinarily accorded it, particularly among the foreign scholars upon whom Westerners have almost exclusively depended for their outlook. This furnishes another illustration of the expansion of an ancient religious tradition to match the enlarging challenge of today's world upon all religions. All the traditional faiths in the world are being stretched to new dimensions in the minds and dedicated spirits of many of their adherents. While condemning Japanese militarism of the past decades Professor Ono boldly seizes the very Shinto formulas then used as the slogans of a resurgent nationalism, and reinterprets them into constructively peaceful and universal meanings.

Who is to deny him this right?

Not for many years, —not since the creative work of Dr. Genchi Kato — has the English-reading public been given so reliable and authoritative a treatment of Shinto "from the inside" as this; and yet in such brief, readable form. For the success of the undertaking much credit is due William P. Woodard, Director of the International Institute for the Study of Religions. His tireless research, his exacting demands of accuracy, and his wide acquaintance with leaders of all faiths in Japan is now bearing fruit in an increasing harvest of invaluable published materials, of which "*The Kami Way*" is a conspicuous example. We are all in his debt.

Charles Iglehart

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