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The Kojiki

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translated by Basil Hall Chamberlain
[1919]

Kindle Edition published by Evinity Publishing Inc, 2009.



Synopsis

The Kojiki is one of the two primary sources for Shinto, the Japanese national religion. It starts in the realm of myth, with the creation of Japan from foam. Innumerable gods and goddesses are described. The narrative moves from mythology to historical legends, and culminates in a chronology of the early Imperial line. The book is densely footnoted, almost to the point where the text is buried in apparatus. This translation was written for a scholarly audience who were expected to want the critical detail of this edition, and casual readers may find it tough going. However, even this cannot shroud the wonderful story-telling. There are supernatural episodes, and tales of murder, passion and betrayal, all interspersed with extemporaneous poetry, reminiscent of Icelandic sagas.--J.B. Hare

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I don't think I've ever seen a more horrible translation of something in my entire life. Not only does

the translator arbitrarily replace text with pages of Latin, he flippantly translates the Japanese expressions into Western culture. I mean, come on, the "world of darkness" translates into Hades?!?!? Plus, he translates all the deity names literally, never giving the Japanese original except in the endnotes, which is a pain to anyone familiar with Japanese culture. Yet he doesn't translate the place names nor gives an explanation of their meaning in the end notes?!?! I wanted to know what one of the islands' names meant, went to the endnote--no explanation. This is a total waste of your money. Try to wait until gets a decent translation of the Kojiki, or ask your nearest Japanese Professor where you might find one.

Very informative book

I love Mythology but this book was not for me. For those who may not know, this may be considered Japan's oldest book!The book is not bad, but not to my type of work.

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