

SHINTO IN JAPAN

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WHAT IS IT

Kami

- **Shinto** (Japanese, "the way of the gods") - Japanese cult and religion.
- Worship centered on a vast pantheon of spirits mainly divinities personifying aspects of the natural world, such as **the sky, the earth, heavenly bodies, and storms.**



EARLY HISTORY

- In the late 6th century AD the name Shinto was created for the native religion to distinguish it from Buddhism and Confucianism, which had been introduced from China.
- Buddhist priests became the custodians of Shinto shrines.

The symbol of shinto



EARLY HISTORY

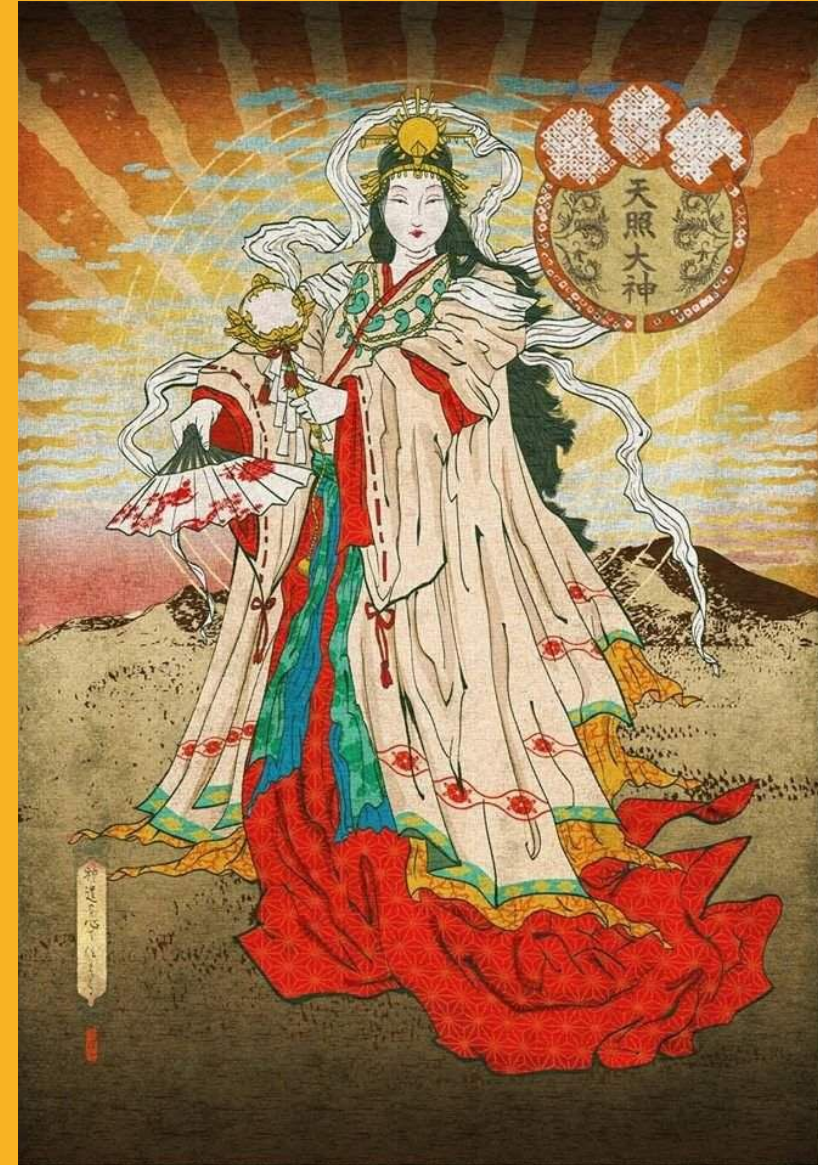
- At the end of the 8th and the beginning of the 9th centuries, the Japanese teacher Kukai, or Kobo Daishi, established a doctrine uniting Buddhism and Shinto under the name of Ryobu Shinto (Japanese, "the Shinto of two kinds"). In the new religion, Buddhism dominated Shinto, and elements were adopted from Confucianism.

Kukai (posthumously,
Kodo Daishi)



EARLY HISTORY

- Beginning in the 18th century, Shinto was revived as an important national religion.
- In 1867 the shogunate was overthrown, and the emperor was restored to the head of the government.



the sun goddess Amaterasu Omikami

CONTEMPORARY SHINTO

- State, or Shrine, Shinto, a patriotic nationalistic cult, identified with and financially supported by the imperial Government
- Sectarian Shinto, a general term for a number of sects founded by private persons and based on various interpretations of traditional Shinto



CONTEMPORARY SHINTO. SECTARIAN SHINTO

At the present time Sectarian Shinto comprises 13 major and numerous minor sects. The principal sects are divided into 5 main groups:

- those that continue with little modification the traditions of ancient Shinto;
- those that emphasize adherence to Confucian ethics;
- those that are predominantly devoted to faith healing;
- those that practice the worship of mountains;
- those that are primarily devoted to purification rites.

