

Religion-

“To understand a people one must comprehend that people’s religion. “Understanding is the beginning of wisdom.”

-(Thompson, J. 2016)-



RELIGION

- Japan and Mesoamerica -

Risa Hanazawa
Daniela Villanueva
D'Andre Thompson

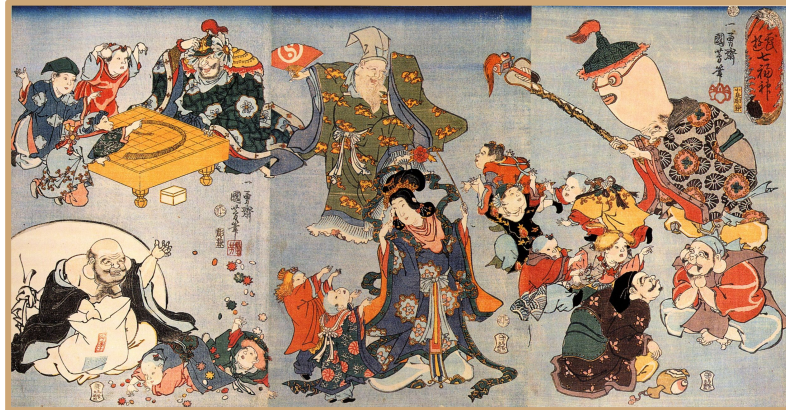
SBS348: Maya Civilization
May 12, 2016

Shinto

- Polytheism
 - The Goddess of Sun - 天照大神 “Amaterasu-Omikami”
 - The relationship with the imperial family of Japan
- Shrines
 - 鳥居 “Torii”
 - 伊勢神宮 “Ise-jingu” - the top of shrines, Amaterasu
- Animism
 - 注連縄 “Shimenawa” - 夫婦岩 “Meoto-Iwa”
 - Ghibli films
 - Princess Mononoke / My Neighbor Totoro / Spirited Away
- Ancestral Worship
 - 菅原道真 “Sugawara no Michizane” - the deity of learning
- Ceremonies -
 - 新嘗祭 “Niiname-Sai”



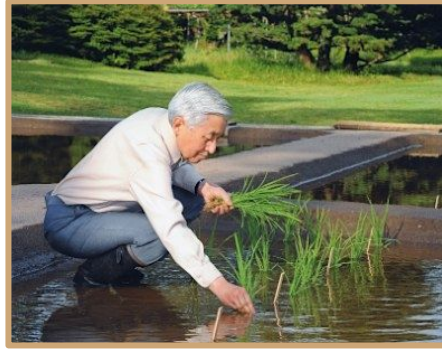
Shinto - Polytheism / Shines



Shinto - Animism



Shinto - Ancestral Worship / Ceremonies



Maya

- Polytheism
 - Worshipped over 165 gods
 - Sacrifices made and Blood offerings
- Pyramids
 - Two Types of pyramids
 - Some sacred not meant to be touched
 - Others used for sacrificial rituals, etc.

- Animism
 - All natural things, such as plants, animals, rocks, etc. have spirits and can influence human events
- Astronomy
 - celestial events were indicative of communication with the gods.
- Ceremonies
 - Bloodletting, Sacrifice,

The Comparison of Shinto with Mayan Religion

Shinto

- Over 8 million Kami
- Ceremonies without bloodletting
- Shrines
 - Buildings with different purpose

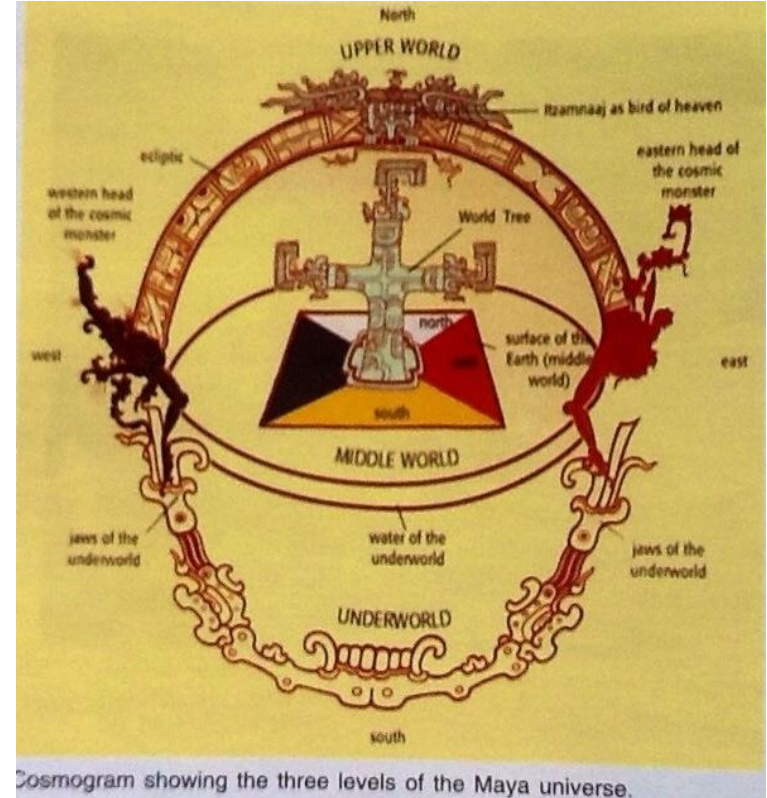
Maya

- Over 165 gods
- The bloodletting rituals
- Astronomy
 - celestial events
- Two kinds of pyramids

Onmyodo - The Way of Ying Yang

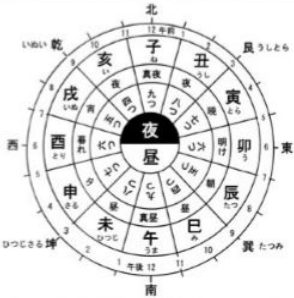
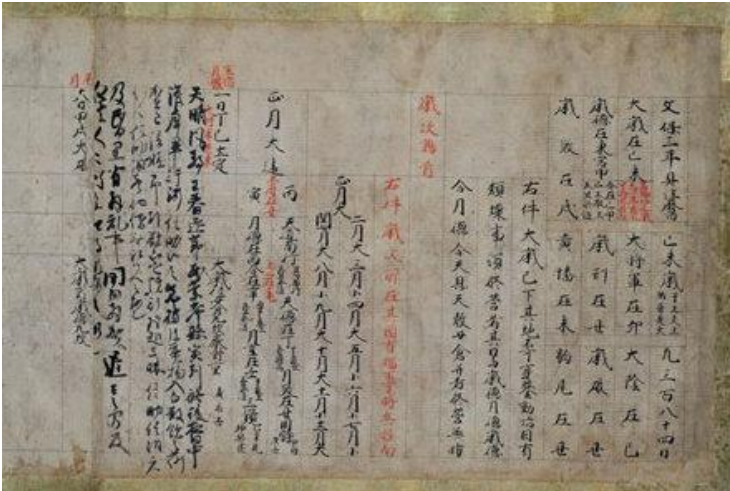
- Ying Yang Divination
 - Tenmon - Astrology
 - Koyomi - Calendrical Studies
 - Roukoku - Timekeeping
- Five Directions - Seimei Kikyo - Ceiba Tree
- Calendar and Lucky Days
 - Guchuureki
 - Pick Lucky and Unlucky Days
 - Codex Barbonicus

Five Directions and Ceiba Tree/Maya Universe



Cosmogram showing the three levels of the Maya universe.

Onmyodo Calendar - Codex barbonicus



Yokai-妖怪

- Monster, Spirit, Ghost
- 妖=(yō) — attractive, bewitching, calamity
- 怪=(kai) — mystery, wonder



Yokai-Kappa

Kappa: River child

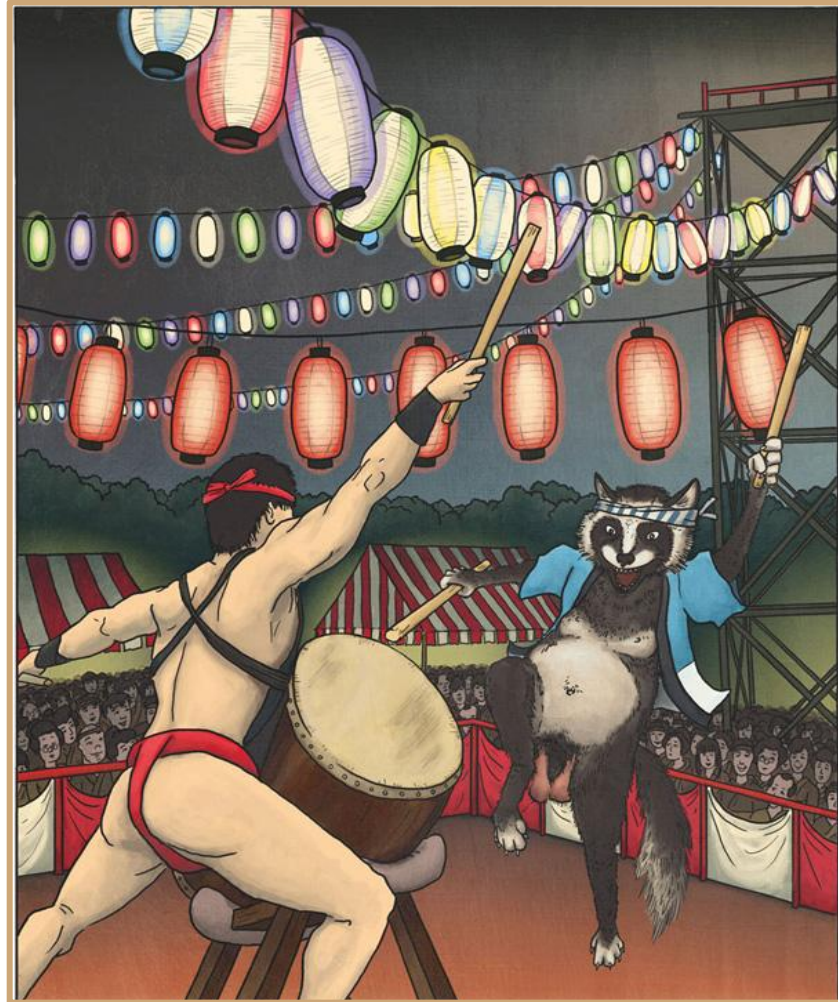
Kappa are revered in Shinto as a kind of water god. It is not uncommon to see offerings of cucumbers made at riverbanks by devout humans; in return, kappa are known to help people by irrigating fields, befriending lonely children, competing with adults in sports and games, and so on.



Yokai-Tanuki

Tanuki: Raccoon dog

One of the most common animal possessions is called tanuki tsuki—possession by tanuki spirits.



Yokai-Kitsune

Kitsune: Fox

There are two major variations of kitsune. Good foxes are servants of the Shinto deity Inari, and Inari's shrines are often decorated with many statues and images of foxes. Legends tell of such celestial providing wisdom or service to good and pious humans. They act as messengers of the gods and mediums between the celestial and human worlds.



Yokai-Kotengu

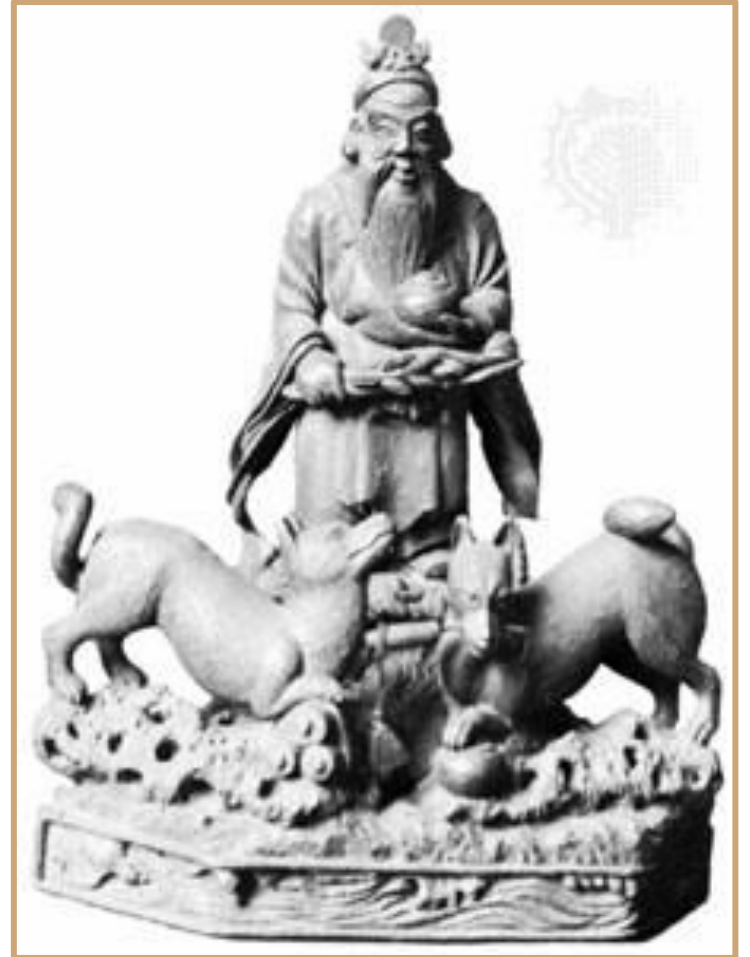
Kotengu: Divine dog

Kotengu have very little respect for humans. They feast on human flesh, and commit rape, torture, and murder just for fun. They abduct people and drop them from great heights deep into the woods; or tie children to the tops of trees so all can hear their screams but none can reach them to help. They kidnap people and force them eat feces until they go mad. They especially revel in tormenting monks and nuns, robbing temples, and trying to seduce clergy.



Inari-Rice Kami

Inari is one of the most well known kami in popular folk Shinto. He (or she) is the god of rice and is related with general prosperity.



Nagual-

- Nagualism
 - Everyone has an alter ego in animal form
- Wayob
 - Companion Spirits



MesoAmerican Supernatural creatures

CHUWEN-Monkey

In ancient Maya art, scribes and artists are often depicted as monkeys. The creative arts were highly valued by the Maya, and this day was considered a lucky one.

Animal Association:

Monkey



MesoAmerican Supernatural creatures

Kimi-Skull/Rebirth

Skulls in Maya art often sprout a green shoot or a flower to symbolize the circle of life. Day keepers consider Kimi an especially fortunate day on which to be born.

Animal Association:

Owl



MesoAmerican Supernatural creatures

IX-Wind

In the jungle, the wind can be a welcome breeze or a force of destruction. Our word hurricane comes from the Maya word Hurakan, a god of winds and storms.

Animal Association:

Jaguar



Hun Hunahpu-Maize god

Maize is the staple crop of Mesoamerica, made nutritionally complete by the addition of lime, in the form today of tortillas, and anciently perhaps as gruel or tamales. Maya myths and legends reflect their agricultural foundations.



References

- Huber, B. R., & Sandstrom, A. R. (2001). *Mesoamerican healers*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
- Maya religion. (n.d.). Retrieved April 30, 2016, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_religion
- Sexton, J. D., & Ujpan, I. B. (1999). *Heart of heaven, heart of earth, and other Mayan folktales*. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press.
- Shinto. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2016, from <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2056.html>
- Thompson, J. E. (n.d.). *Maya history and religion*.
- Mikyung, Baku. Animism inside Japanese animations focused on animations by Hayao Miyazaki. Retrieved from http://www.kyoto-seika.ac.jp/cumulus/e_programs/posterpdf/s2_4.pdf
- Religion: Shinto. BBC. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/shinto/>
- Picken, S. (2011). *Historical Dictionary of Shinto*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press.
- Encyclopedia of Shinto. Retrieved from <http://eos.kokugakuin.ac.jp/modules/xwords/>
- Hayek, M.. (2011). The Eight Trigrams and Their Changes: An Inquiry into Japanese Early Modern Divination. *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, 38(2), 329–368. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41331490>
- Huber, B. R., & Sandstrom, A. R. (2001). *Mesoamerican healers*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
- MILLER, L.. (2008). Extreme Makeover for a Heian-Era Wizard. *Mechademia*, 3, 30–45. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41510901>
- Makoto, H., Luers, D., & 林淳. (2013). The Development of Early Modern Onmyōdō. *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, 40(1), 151–167. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41955534>
- 國學院デジタルミュージアム - Shinto and Onmyodo. (n.d.). Retrieved May 6, 2016, from http://k-amc.kokugakuin.ac.jp/DM/dbSearchList.do?class_name=col_eos