

Religion and Daily Life

Looking at religious aspects in daily life of Japan

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Age rites



七五三<Shichigosan>

- The festival for children 七<7> 五<5> 三<3> years old
- Held annually on November 15th
- Dressed in *Kimono*
- To celebrate children's growth and well-being



Seijin no hi <Coming of age day>

- Held annually on second Monday of January
- To celebrate those who turned 20 years old and will be 20



- Women wear *furisode*, the style of *kimono* with long sleeves
- Men wear suit or *hakama*, type of Japanese traditional cloth
- Reflect the expanded rights and responsibilities

Kanreki, kizyu

- Kanreki
- One's 60 years birthday
 - *Kan* means return and *reki* means calendar
 - give them a red cloth as a gift



- Kizyu
- one's 77th birthday
 - give them a purple cloth as a gift with wish that they will live long



Personal views

- It is a good thing we could have been preserving old customs even today
 - make family bond stronger
 - Most of people forget the original purpose
- involve various incidents





Family System in Japan

● Confucianism

- the introduction of confucian texts and teachings into Japan in the mid-6th century.
- In the tokugawa period, samurai education was based on confucian texts.
- After this period, Confucianism spread in the Family system in Japan.



○ Strict Father

May be, we can not find those kind of Father in Current Japanese society.

But, according to the Asahi News Press in 1974. Recent history, there have been a lot of examples of Strict Father.

<For example>

- A novelist
- A news commentator
- An ex-governor of a prefecture
- A stage director

(Quotation from “Hiroshi Wagatsuma, Some Aspects of the Contemporary Japanese Family : Once confucian, Now Fatherless?” The MIT Press)



Personal conclusion

Actually, because of the radical change of the family system in Japan, we could not find a lot of superficial aspects based on Confucianism in the current Japanese family system. However, I can say that the Japanese family system based on Confucianism has existed in recent history of Japan.

Religion found in Pop Culture

- ❖ Religions ideas, practices and icons can be found in Pop Culture media throughout Japan.
 - ex) Shinto, Buddhist, and Onmyodo ideas can be found in Anime/Manga, music videos, Dramas and TV Show.



What can be found

❖ A good majority of media portray some sort of religious idea.

- Showing us that these are ideas are still important to today's society.



Why?

❖ The lecture:

- Most people don't care for Kami or believe in it as a religion
- Nor are they atheist



To Conclude

- ❖ Religion in Pop Culture ≠ Preaching
- ❖ = showing customs and etiquette that have already been practiced for ages.

Business and Onmyodo

Omnyodo and superstitions can be found in the Japanese business world.

- > Kami
- > Jichinsai
- > Kiyoharae
- > Mono-imi
- > Kata-tagae



Personal Conclusion

- **Respect for the Kami**
 - > **Acheivements**
 - > **Memories**

- **Avoiding Reality**
 - > **Added Stress**
 - > **Unproductive**

Our Conclusion

The values, customs and etiquettes created from the religions of Japan are important to modern society.

It is also important to understand that they have evolved beyond religious preaching into daily customs still practiced today.