

VOCABULARY FOR JAPANESE TRADITIONS

1. Zen – the Japanese form of Chan Buddhism
2. Kami
3. Koan
4. Matsuri
5. Pure Land (Jodo)
6. otera – Buddhist temples
7. jinja – Shinto shrines
8. shogun – “generalissimo” commander-in-charge
9. Kojiki – “Record of Ancient Matters” – the oldest surviving text in Japanese (~ 712) that represents genealogically based chronicles of the early history of Japan.
10. Kamikaze – “divine wind”
11. Oni – demons
12. Obake – ghost
13. Jigoku – Japanese Buddhism concept of “hell”
14. Lotus Sutra – one of the most important religious texts of the Mahayana Buddhist traditions, especially in Japan.
15. Jodo-shinsha = “True Pure Land” – Japan’s largest Buddhist sect. Its central concept is centered on a devotee’s personal relationship with the deity, Amida.
16. Nichiren-shu (shoshu) – A Japanese Buddhist sect centered around the chanting of the phrase “daimoku” in reference to the Fifth Lotus Sutra.
17. torii – a gateway (structure) that demarcates sacred space from profane at a Shinto sanctuary.
18. Satori – “spiritual awakening”

19. Wa – harmonious relationships
20. Kannushi – Shinto priest
21. Jogoku – The equivalent to “hell” in the Japanese Buddhist theology
22. tama – “soul of immediately deceased relatives
23. Amida Buddha – the highest ranking Buddha or bodhisattva in Japanese Buddhist theology.
24. Amaterasu – the highest deity in the Shinto pantheon.