

Thanatology

April 13, 2018  
(Friday !!)

§ 2

# The Japanese View of Life and Death

Rev. Yoshiharu Tomatsu

# 浄土宗(Jodo Shu)心光院(Shinkoin)

- Built in 1598
- Moved to Azabu in 1761
- Bombed by air raid in 1945
- 50<sup>th</sup> Chief Priest



# Who I am

- born in Tokyo in 1953 as the third blood successor of the Tomatsu family to live in Shinko-in temple which is nearly 400 years old.
- studied Japanese medieval history at Keio University
- completed Buddhist studies at Taisho University graduate school.
- received full ordination in 1978 in the Jodo Shu.
- spent three years in the United States earning a Masters of Theological Studies majoring in applied theology and bioethics at Harvard University Divinity School from 1989-91.

# Who I am

- established AYUS – one of Japan's principal Buddhist NGO devoted to supporting other NGOs working in the developing world.
- joined the Jodo Shu Research Institute as the head of the International Affairs Section.
- teaching about Buddhism and social issues, such as North-South issues, AIDS, and Buddhist solutions to violence at Taisho and Toyo University.
- taught medical students about the integration of physical and spiritual care at the Keio University School of Medicine.(2006—2011)
- Secretary General of Japan Buddhist Federation

# Thanatology (死生学)

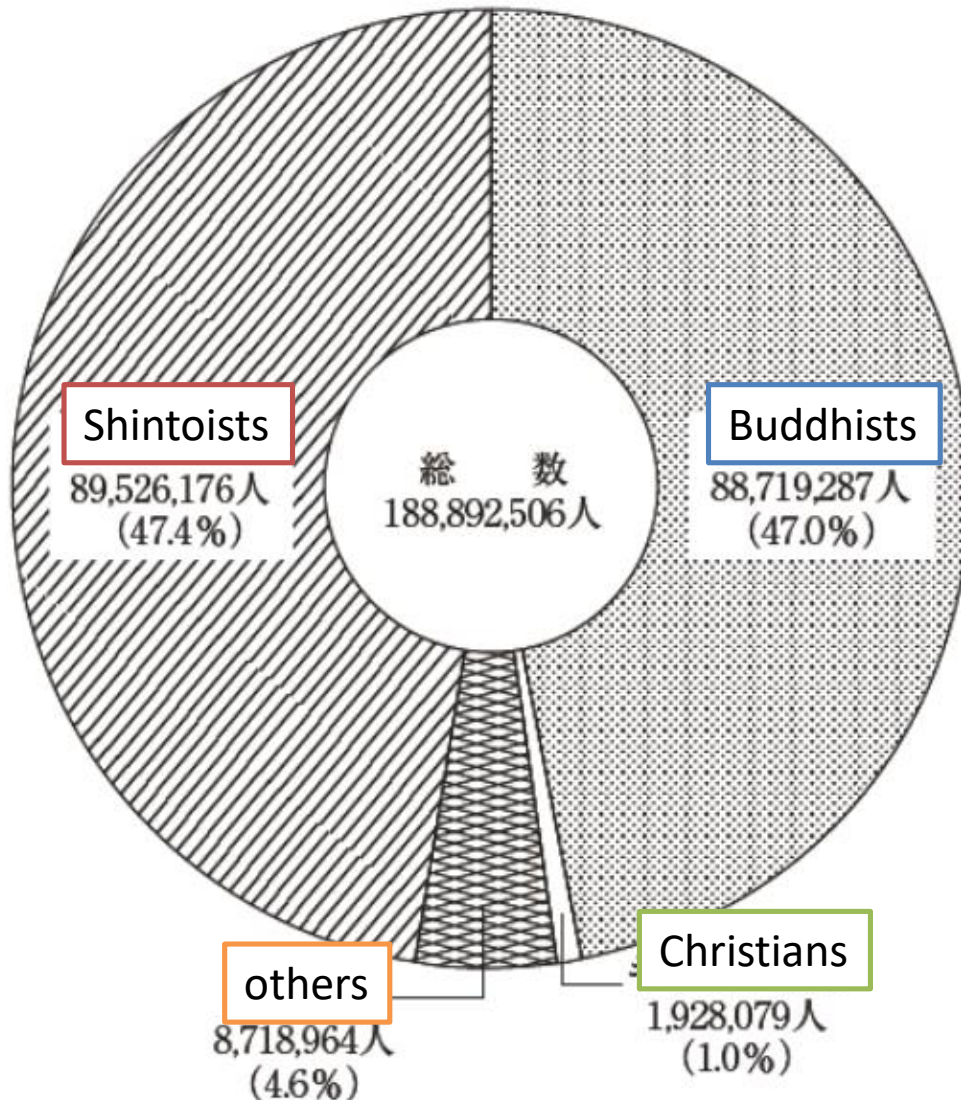
- Thanatology, the description or study of death and dying and the psychological mechanisms of dealing with them.
- Thanatology is concerned with the notion of death as popularly perceived and especially with the reactions of the dying, from whom it is felt much can be learned about dealing with death's approach.

from Encyclopedia BRITANNICA

# What is “Life and Death”

- Life as Four Sufferings in Buddhism
- ➡ Birth Aging Sickness Death
- As the medical professionals, you face to them
- Harmony between “Body and Soul”

The number of the believers  
(平成 27 年 12 月 31 日現在)



# The number of the believers

(December 31, 2015)

Agency for Cultural Affairs HP  
“Shukyo Nenkan (Religious Yearbook)” published in 2016.

Population estimates  
126 million

Statistics Bureau (March 1, 2017)

Total number of believers is  
**190million**, and including the  
number of the unaffiliated

⇒ **Two times of population**

- Believe in buddhas or gods... ‘yes’ three out of ten/four out of ten
  - believe in buddhas(仏) 41%
  - believe in gods(神) 32%
- Do you believe in the existence of Life after Death?
- ‘yes’ ... 40% 「あの世」を信じている人が4割

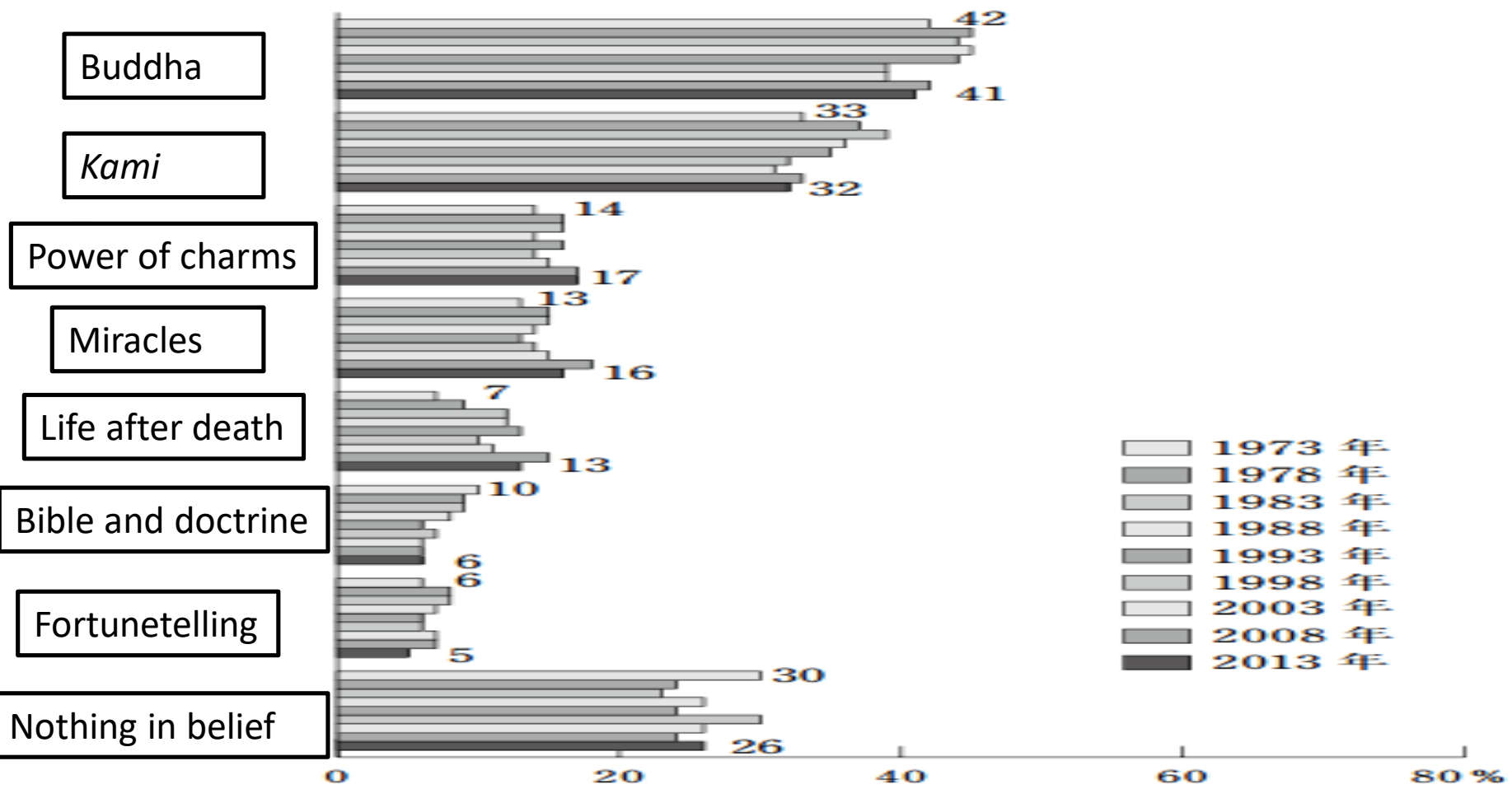
From: The institute of statistical mathematics

“ISM Survey Research Report 2013”

# Religious faith, belief 信仰・信心

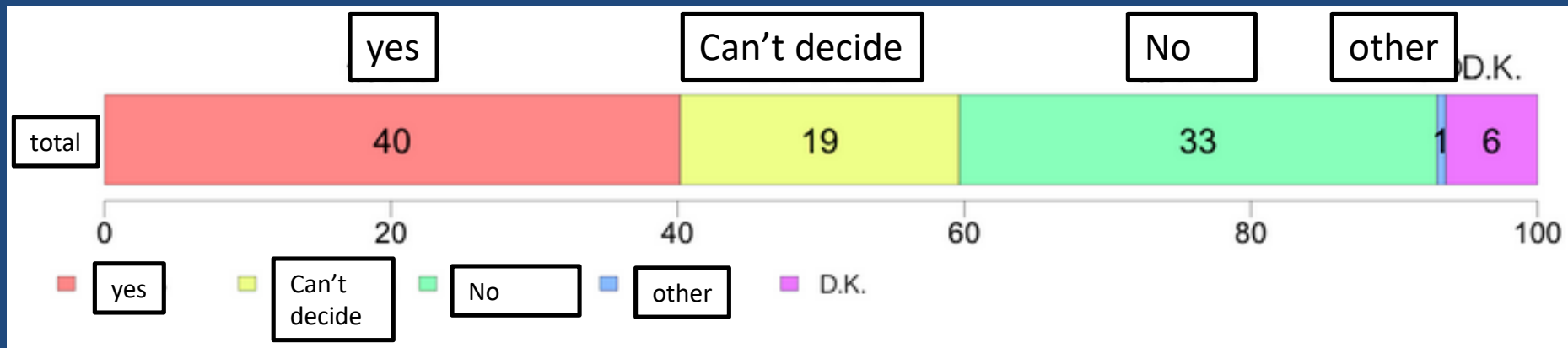
「宗教とか信仰とかに関係すると思われることがらで、あなたが信じているものがありますか。」(複数回答)

図 15 信仰・信心〈複数回答, 全体〉

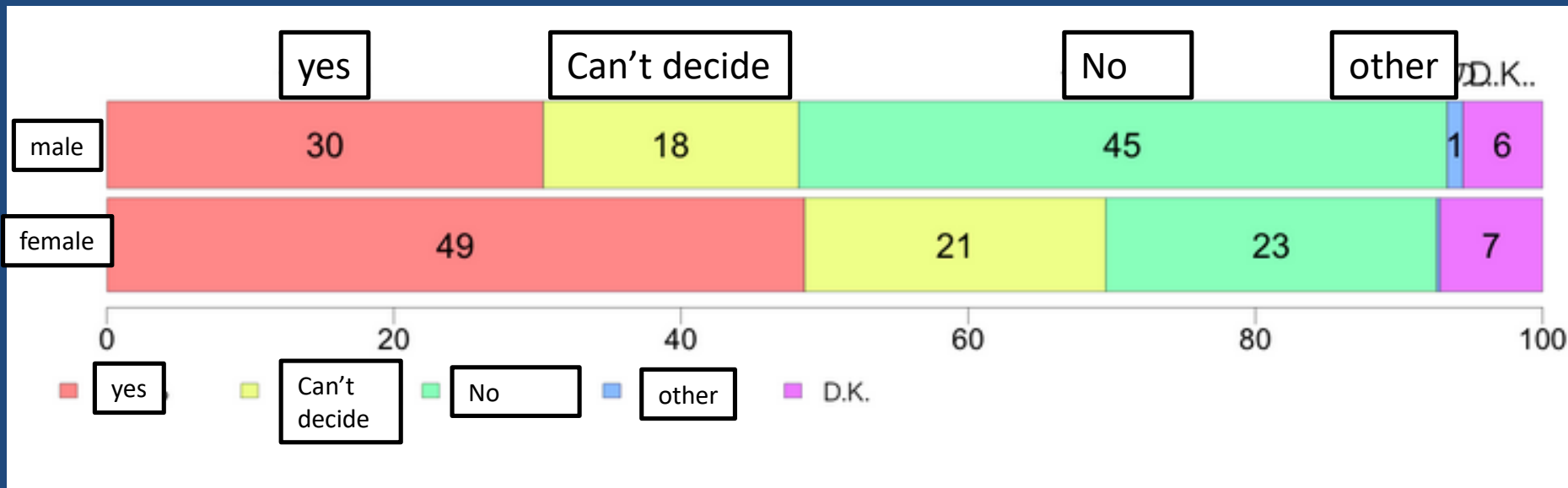


NHK放送文化研究所 第9回「日本人の意識調査(2013)」結果の概要から  
16歳以上の国民5,400人(12人×450地点、層化無作為2段)を抽出

# Do you believe the world after Death?



## By gender...



# The Japanese View of Life After Death

- Nothing (無)
- Other World (あの世)
- Pure Land (浄土)
- Heaven (天国)

# The Japanese mind of religions and religious activities

The Japanese have become unaffiliated and simplified funeral ceremony recently but.....

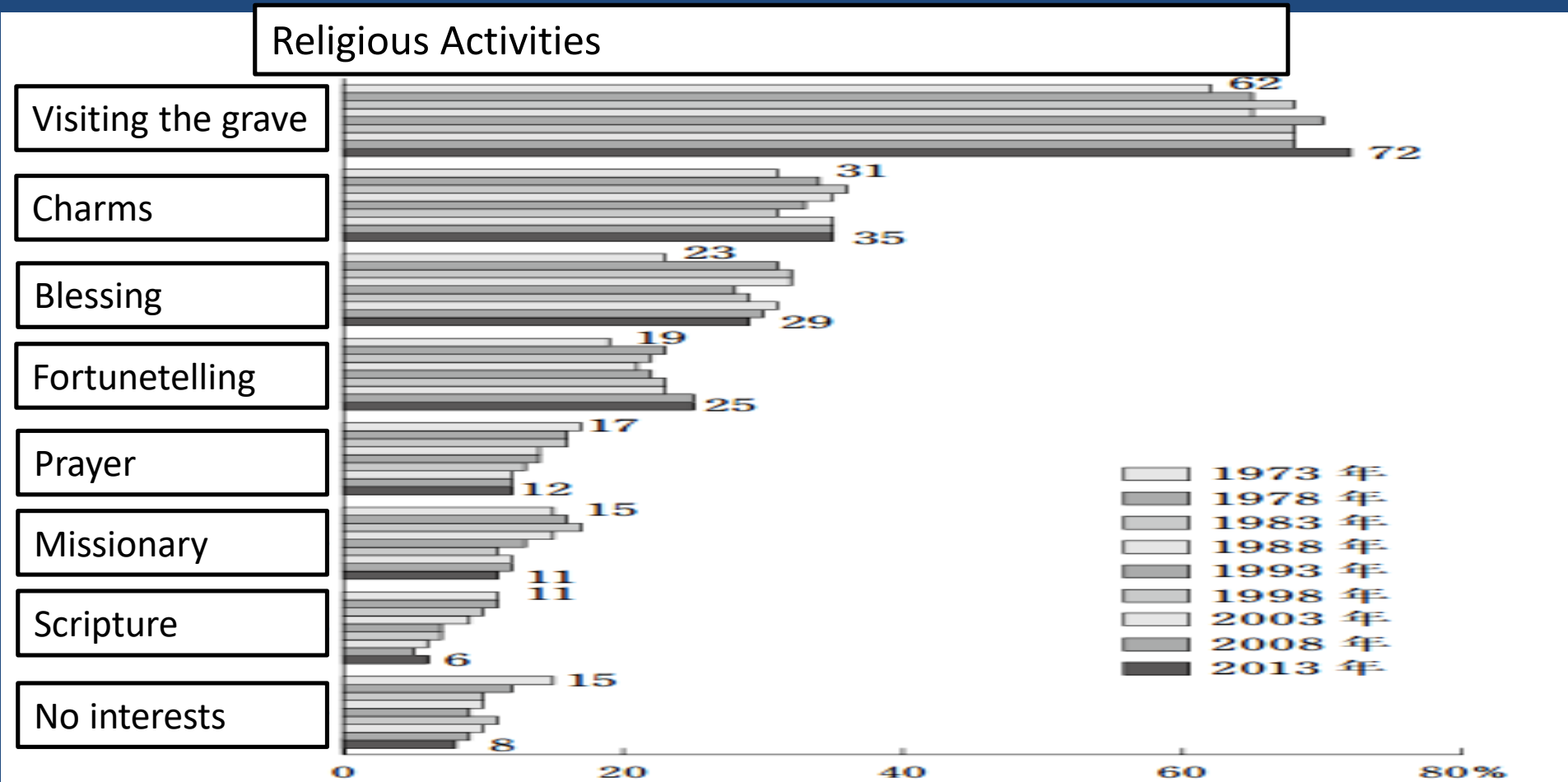
- The number those who visit the family graves(ancesters) is slightly increasing.
  - in 1973      63%
  - in 2013      72%

The NHK Monthly Report on Broadcast Research

NHK第9回「日本人の意識調査(2013)」結果より

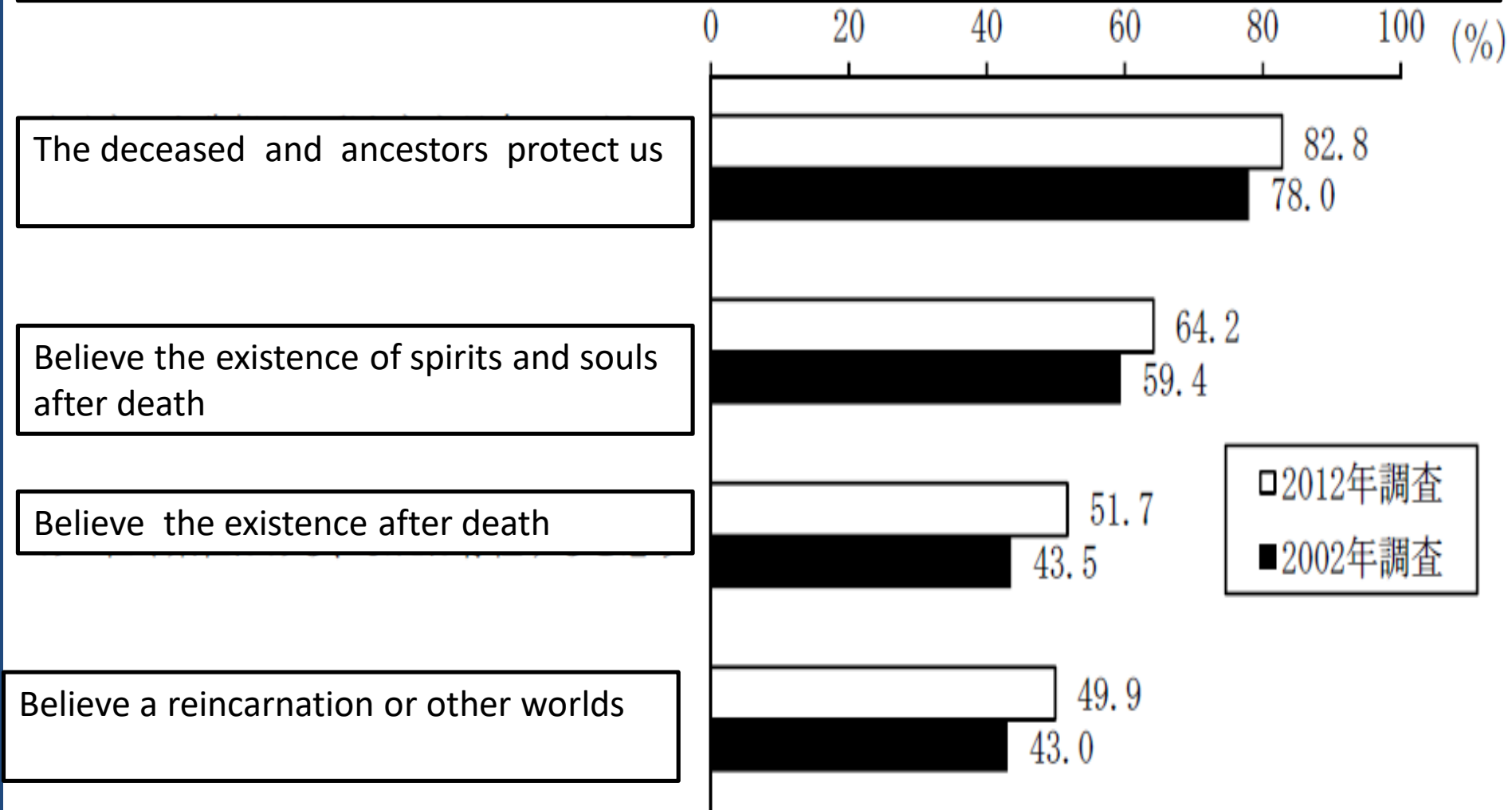
# Japanese Religious Faith and Belief 信仰・信心

「宗教とか信仰とかに関係すると思われることがらで、あなたがおこなっているものがありますか。」(複数回答)



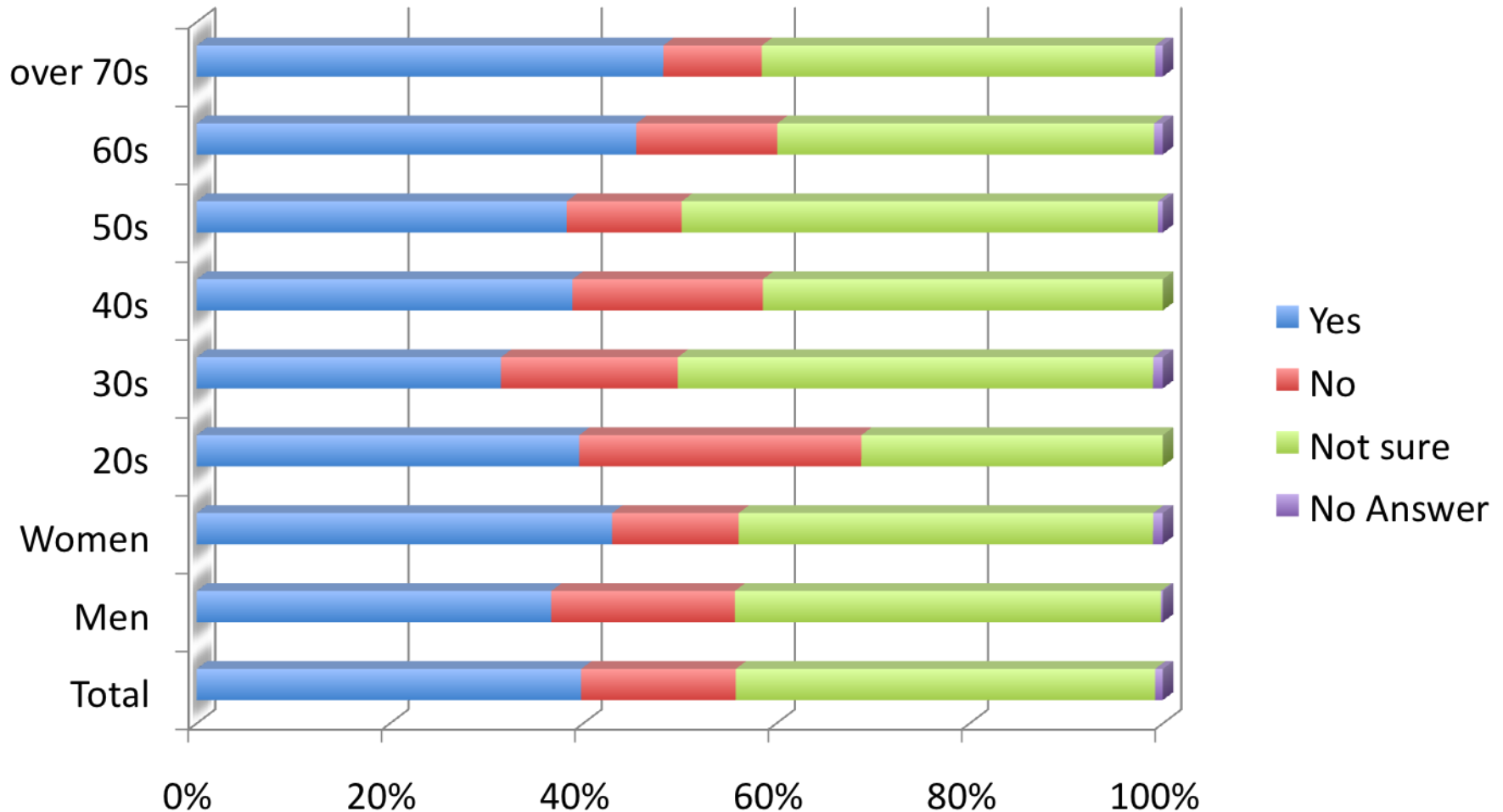
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## The Japanese Religious Feelings (2002 and 2012 reports in comparison)



# When facing death, does religion offer solace and support?

(Source: Japan Foundation for the Promotion of Research in Hospice and Palliative Care 2008) (財)日本ホスピス・緩和ケア研究振興財団 2008年意識

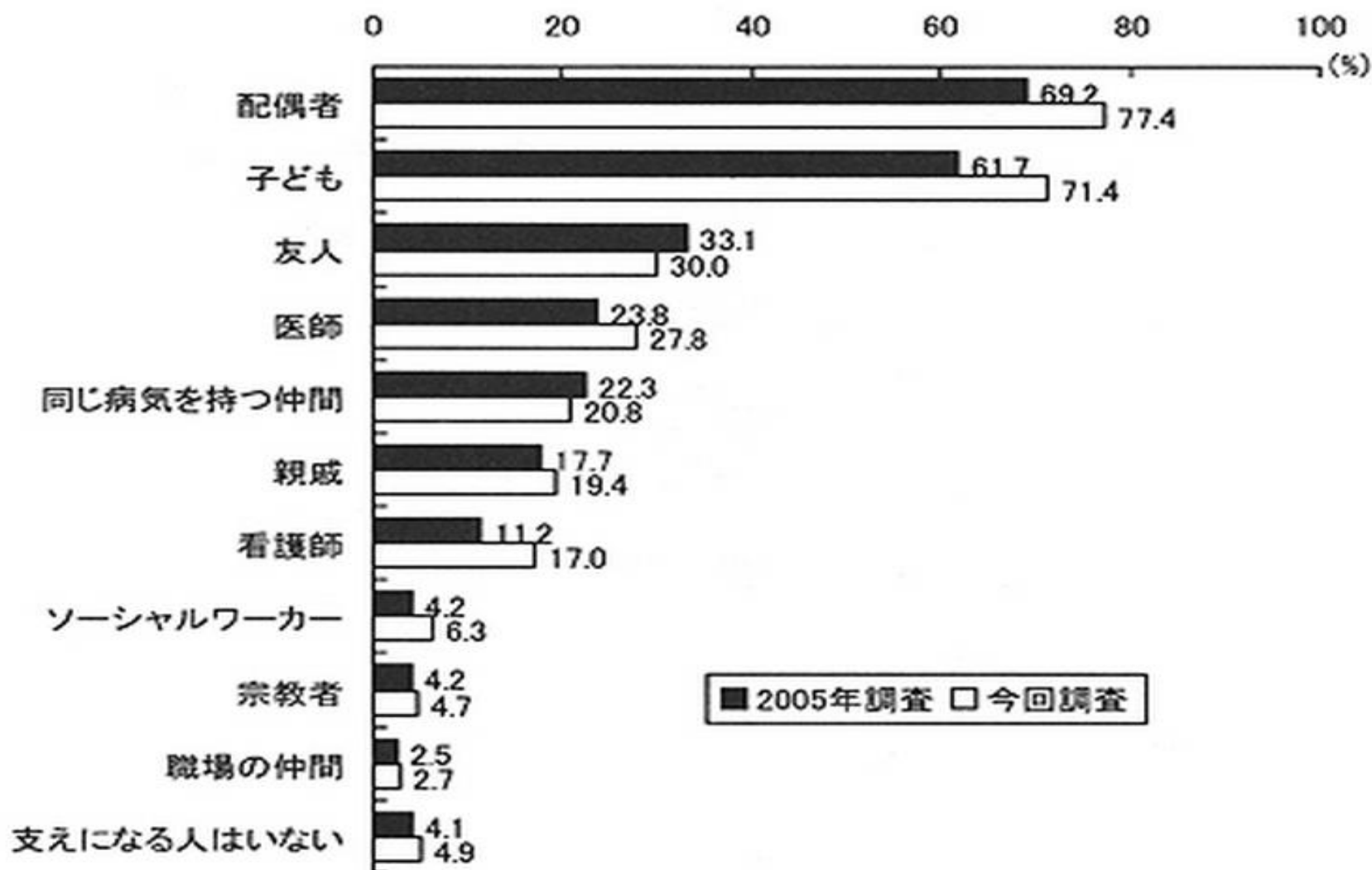


# 死に直面したときの心の支えになる人(複数回答)

死に直面したときの心の支えは「配偶者」や「子ども」

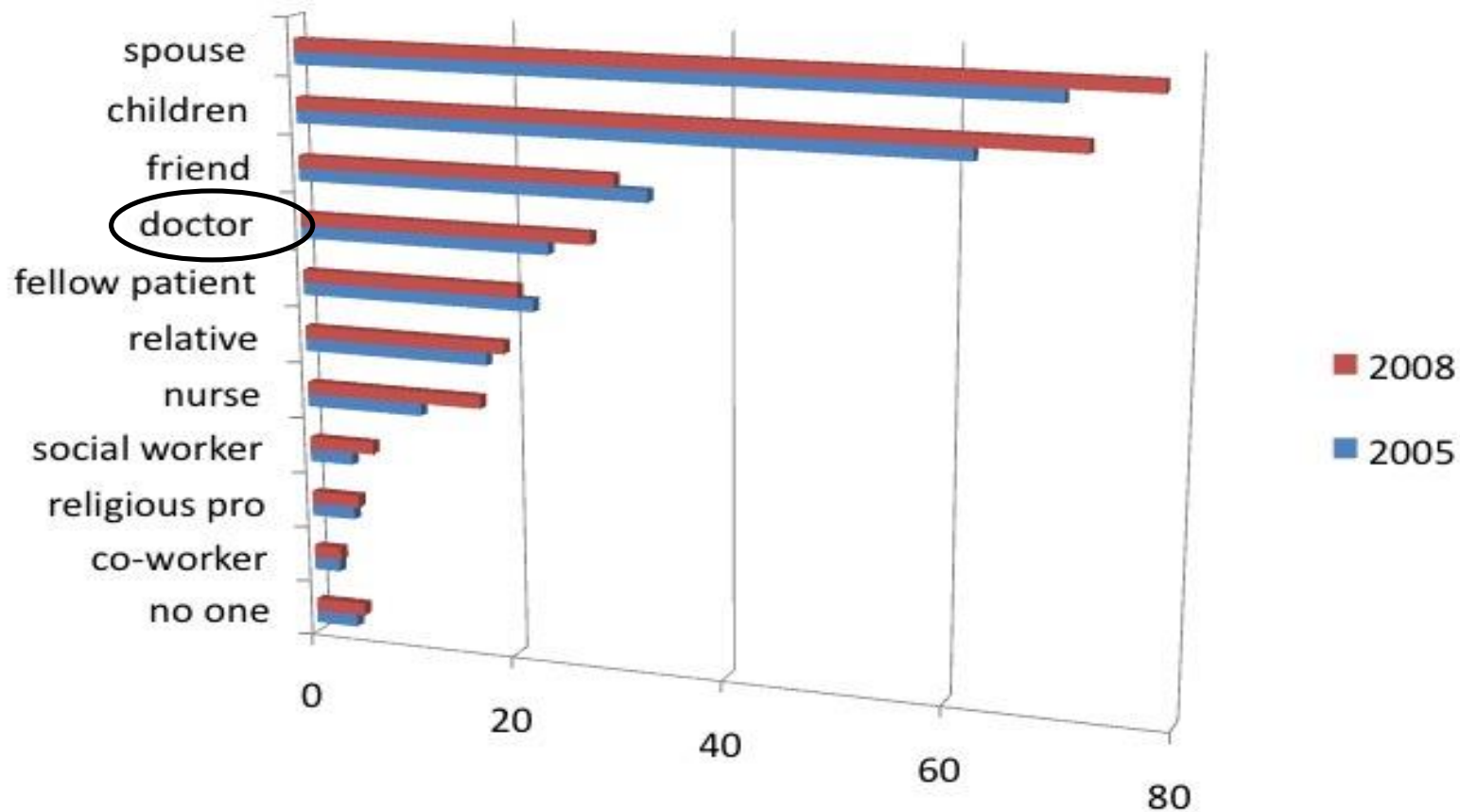
Japan Hospice Palliative Care Foundation 'conscious survey' 2012

図 11 死に直面した場合に心の支えになる人(複数回答)



# In the moment of facing death, which person would you most rely on?

(multiple response allowed)  
Japan Hospice Palliative Care Foundation



# Social Expectations to Doctor

What is the expected  
image of the doctor in  
terms of life and death?

# What is Shinto (神道)?

- Shinto is the indigenous faith of the Japanese people.
- Shinto, unlike other major religions, does not have a founder, nor does it possess sacred scriptures or texts.

Association of Shinto Shrines HP  
<http://www.jinjahoncho.or.jp/en/shinto/index.html>



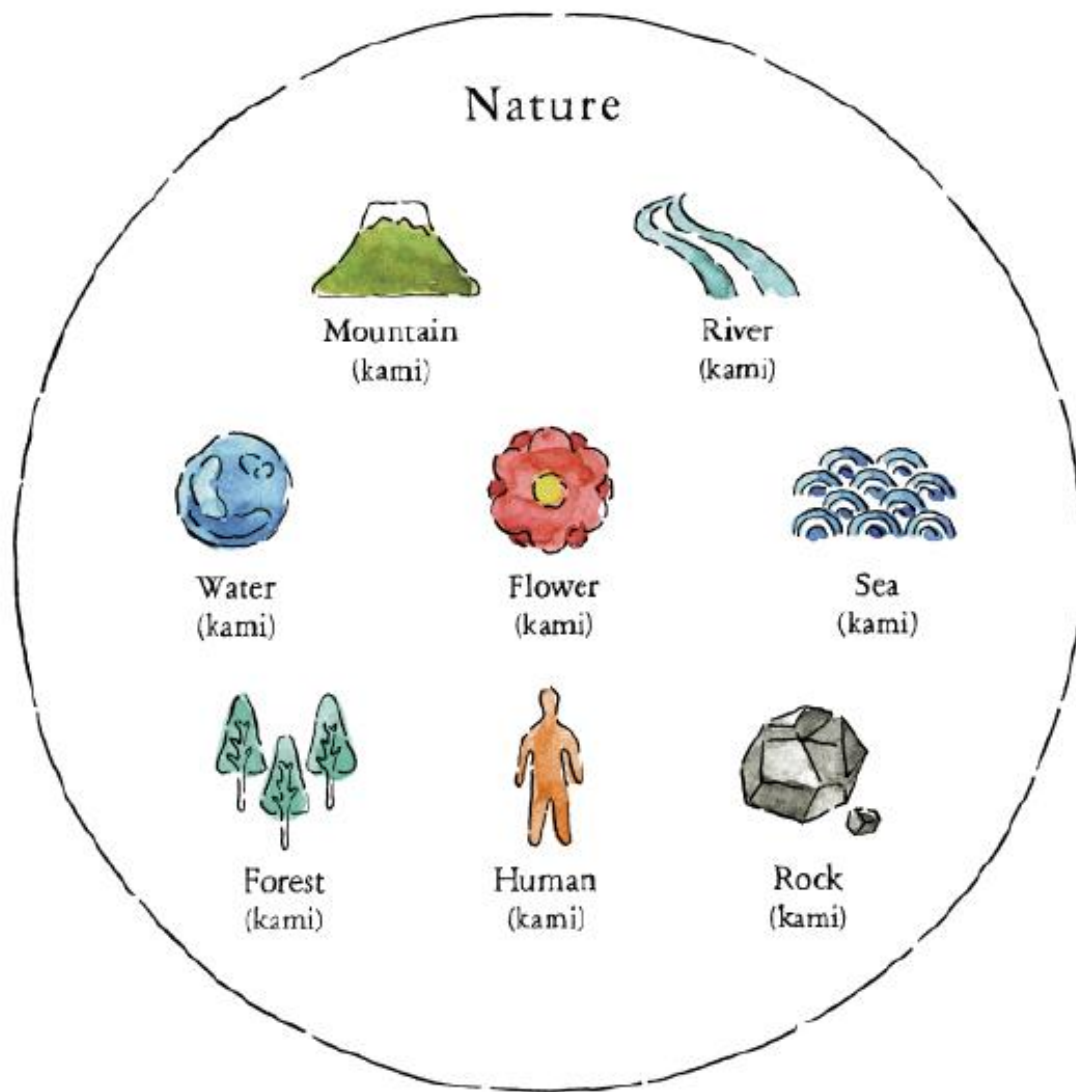
Photograph from "SOUL of JAPAN – An Introduction to Shinto and Ise Jingu"  
<http://www.jinjahoncho.or.jp/en/image/soul-of-japan.pdf>

- The word Shinto first appears in the “Nihonshoki” 「The Chronicles of Japan」 in the early 8th century with the intention of distinguishing this native faith from the recently arrived religions of Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism.

# Shinto: After Death and Ancestor Worship

- According to Shinto faith, a human spirit is believed to remain forever like the spirit of kami (deity).
- According to folk faith, there is a belief of 'the otherworld in the mountains'.
- This faith is related to the fact that cemeteries were located on hills which have panoramic views over villages and also the fact that people often expressed their wish to watch their descendants even after their death. ...

- These other worlds, however, are not described as utopia nor as a hell.
- There is no difference at all from this world.
- There is also a belief that kami and ancestral spirits protect their descendants as long as the descendants continue to hold festivals.
- It can be said that Shinto is not a religion which centralized its interests in the life after death, but in this world.



## *Kami*

Since ancient times, Japanese have expressed the divine energy or life-force of the natural world as *kami*.

# Visiting the grave



<http://www.kyotokoto.jp/archives/tag/%E5%88%9D%E8%A9%A3>



*Hakamairi*

<http://www.nichiren.or.jp/english/buddhism/memorial/page02.php>

# Charms



## *Omamori, Ofuda*

Zojoji Temple

<http://www.zojoji.or.jp/ki-gan/>



## *Omamori*

<http://www.jinjahoncho.or.jp/iroha/omairi-roha/omamori/>



## *Ofuda (Jingu-taima)*

<http://www.jinjahoncho.or.jp/iroha/otheriroha/ofuda/>



*Bonten-fuda*  
*(hibuse-no-ofuda)*  
 Takao-san Yakuo-in  
[http://takaosan.or.jp/taiken/hiwatari\\_shidai.html](http://takaosan.or.jp/taiken/hiwatari_shidai.html)



Fire-Walking



*Ofuda Hibuse*  
*(hi-no yojin)*  
 Atago\_jinja (Kyoto)  
<http://atagojinja.jp/>  
 A Buddhist rosary  
<https://ssl.yasudanenju.com/haruhahana-blog/author/postmaster/>



# Prayer and Blessing



*Ogoma  
(Yakuyoke, Gomakito)*

Kawasaki Daishi Heikenji Temple  
<http://kawasakidaishi.com/profit/index.html>

# Sacred Iod



*'Omikuji'*

<http://www.jinjahoncho.or.jp/iroha/omairi/iroha/omikuji/>

*Mizuura-mikuji*

Kifune Shrine

<http://kifunejinja.jp/history.html#p6>

貴船神社 貴船神社

方 向	病 氣	出 産	恋 愛	願 望
南の方 万よろし	医療に専念せよ	やすし	安心せよ	金銭その他万事望みのままなり 油断大敵

第七番

ミズ 占 **大吉** みくじ

境内の御神水に 静かに浮かべて下さい

転 居	失 せ 物	商 売	学 問	旅 行
いそがぬが 吉	出づる 人手に渡らず	売物買物損はなし	安心して勉強せよ	行先利徳あり

貴船神社 貴船神社

方 向	病 氣	出 産	恋 愛	願 望
何れに向ふも災なし	治る 償すべし	障りなし 安心	心のままなるべし	望みはす早く叶ふべし

第十四番

ミズ 占 **中吉** みくじ

境内の御神水に 静かに浮かべて下さい

転 居	失 せ 物	商 売	学 問	旅 行
今の望み 叶はず	出づる 低き所	ひそかにすれば吉	安心して勉強せよ	早く行くが利

# Happy New Year in the Buddhist Temple



<https://matome.naver.jp/odai/2141953824920152601>

# Happy New Year in the Shinto Shrine



<http://www.kyotokoto.jp/archives/tag/%E5%88%9D%E8%A9%A3>