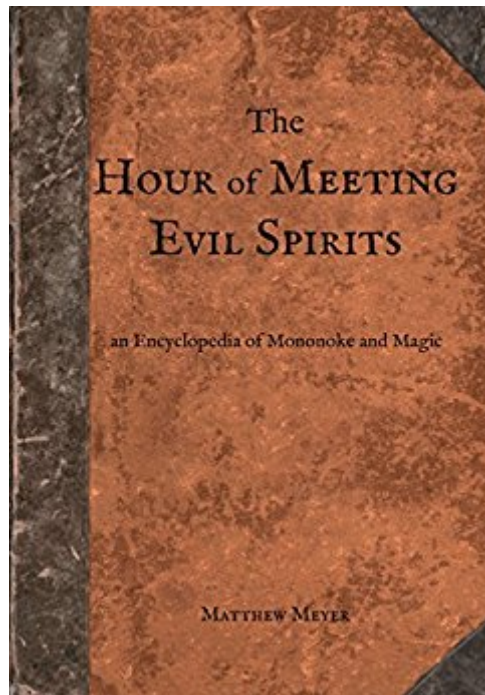




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# **The Hour Of Meeting Evil Spirits: An Encyclopedia Of Mononoke And Magic (Yokai Series Book 2)**



## Synopsis

In Japan, it is said that there are 8 million kami. These spirits encompass every kind of supernatural creature; from malign to monstrous, demonic to divine, and everything in between. Most of them seem strange and scary—•even evil—•from a human perspective. They are known by myriad names: bakemono, chimimoryo, mamono, mononoke, obake, oni, and yokai. Yokai live in a world that parallels our own. Their lives resemble ours in many ways. They have societies and rivalries. They eat, sing, dance, play, fight, compete, and even wage war. Normally, we keep to our world and they keep to theirs. However, there are times and places where the boundaries between the worlds thin, and crossing over is possible. The twilight hour—the border between daylight and darkness—is when the boundary between worlds is at its thinnest. Twilight is the easiest time for yokai to cross into this world, or for humans to accidentally cross into theirs. Our world is still awake and active, but the world of the supernatural is beginning to stir. Superstition tells people to return to their villages and stay inside when the sun sets in order to avoid running into demons. This is why in Japanese the twilight hour is called omagatoki: "the hour of meeting evil spirits." This encyclopedia contains over 125 illustrated entries detailing the monsters of Japanese folklore and the myths and magic surrounding them. This book was first funded on Kickstarter in 2013.

## Book Information

File Size: 44402 KB

Print Length: 286 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Matthew Meyer; 1 edition (June 1, 2015)

Publication Date: June 1, 2015

Sold by: Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00XZTH1JG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #207,244 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #83

inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Reference > Encyclopedias #112 inÃ Â Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Mythology & Folklore #138 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Folklore & Mythology

## Customer Reviews

Beautiful illustrations and concise explanations. An enjoyable and addictive overview of Yokai

More beautiful artwork from Matthew Meyer! This is a series of blurbs about Japanese monsters, very useful for anime fans (or those who like Japanese culture). Would love to see this one as a physical book.

Excellent descriptions and illustrations

Another great book my Mr. Meyer!

I like this

This book and his first, *The Night Parade of One Hundred Demons*, are just so excellent. There are a handful of good books about yokai available in English now, but what sets this one apart is the art. If you like traditional ukiyo-e prints, you will love Meyer's modern take on the style, and of course the subject matter is so much more fun than another landscape or temple! If you are interested in Japanese folklore, or any Japanese pop culture that references the folklore, buy this book.

Another incredible exploration into Yokai Mythology from Meyer. Much like his first book, "*Night Parade of 100 Demons*", Meyer goes into great informative depth on the various creatures of Japanese, and to a greater extent, Asian folklore. The artwork is incredible, a lot of it is modern restorations from ukiyo-e artist Toriyama Seiken's series of 18th centuries bestiaries, brought to the modern day through modern art techniques combined with imagery and ukiyo-e stylization that really makes the artwork come alive. Meyer could probably take all of his Yokai drawings, put them all together in a hardback book and sell them as an artbook, it really is that good. But that's not all, with each image comes a very detailed and lengthy exploration into the origins, legends, and nature of each Yokai or spirit featured. This is a lifesaver for would-be English Yokai-enthusiasts as most Yokai lore and stories have little to no information in English speaking regions of the world or even

on the Web outside of famous Yokai like the Kappa or Oni, but Meyer goes a step further and showcases strange, little known monsters on top of the more famous ones. An example is the Ippon Datara, of which I was only able to get a mere sentence or two surrounding a boar god that turned into one without elaboration into what an Ippon Datara is, Meyer provides a face and very in depth description of a very strange, very unique folkloric critter which I am appalled at the utter lack of information that exists in regards to it in other English speaking portions of the web.+But he doesn't stop at just Yokai, in this book also contains a lengthy portion describing the Japanese Shinto-Buddhist Afterlife (both Meido and Jigoku) as well as Onmyodo practices and spells and even informative glances into Japanese Religion(s) and how the Sun setting and rising plays a role in that and how Yokai are involved therein. The Onmyodo information alone is something I could not find much else on in the english portion of the internet, making a huge bonus for a potential reader.+covers the "three great evil Yokai" (Tamamo-no-Mae, Shuten Doji and Sutoku) as well as the "Three Great evil Onryo" and several other individuals of both historical fact and myth and the legends that involve them, making for a good history lesson of Japan on top of of the mythological aspect of it.+Other myths of Asia are also covered from China, to Okinawa, to even India. Religions too from the Goryo Shinko, Koshin, and even Okinawan Shamanism.+/-For its price (almost as much as a college textbook) its a tough sell, especially as a paper-back book. However, coming from an artists' perspective, I understand given the amount of drawings and artwork Meyer has done himself in the back. Coming from experience, art isn't quick, easy or cheap. Its a time consuming affair and there are over a hundred images in the book the Meyer drew and painted (digitally) himself. So while the text content is lacking in terms of its price-tag, the art, in my opinion more than makes up for it.-If you are familiar with his website, Yokai.com or his blog, you will find that a lot of the entries and art in the book already exist online as well as his Yokai-a-day marathon where he uploads one Yokai entry + art per day, each day in the month of October. Furthermore, his exploration into Meido and Jigoku had already been extensively done on his own blog, which he admits there that his book won't cover much more than what he did there. Thus being a potential downside to a potential buyer, however, one misses out on his informative notes and additions he occasionally adds to entries such as explaining what "karts" has to do with a Kasha, which otherwise does not exist on his website. Something to keep in mind before you decide to spend fifty dollars on a paperback book.All in all, if you are really committed to learning about Yokai and Japanese Folklore/History be you a hobbyist or would be student of Japanese myth, this book is a must-buy and must-own for your digital or even physical collection. The art, the in-depth research and the amount of content is more than enough to justify purchasing it. However if you are not that

interested in Japanese folklore, than I honestly, objectively can't justify some regular chap (especially if they don't care for art) spending 55 dollars on a book like this, they are best off going to his Blog or Yokai.com and sating their curiosities that way. However, for me personally, and my own love of Japanese folklore and frustration in trying to find more in depth information, this book has been a lifesaver for me. And I'm sure it will be so to other would-be English researchers of Yokai who can't yet speak or read Japanese. Meyer has truly done a service to the cause of increased knowledge and information about Yokai folklore.

Meyer's project is quite ambitious, but he certainly rises to the challenge with this text. In addition to a fabulous study of the demonic, we are given glimpses into Japanese linguistics, culture, religion, and everything pertaining to those subjects in a concise and well-documented account as they pertain to the folklore, myth, and religions where these fantastical illuminations exist. Meyer's thoroughness is exceedingly admirable. A demon who is comparable to another, for example, is not compartmentalized to a generalization. Instead, focus is given to the unique complexities of each individual agent of an entry. It's a wonderful and respectful introduction to larger Japanese culture and history, and the seasoned reader of these subjects can certainly use these texts to great effect: as personal or classroom teaching tools, as well as a source of reference and reacquaintance. The illustrations are vibrant and correlate wonderfully with textual articulations. The prose is very reader friendly without sacrificing style. Meyer's enthusiasm delightfully soaks every page.

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