

Annotating Susanoo



A research project by Sam Bostwick

Overview

- Who is Susanoo?
- Why this course?
- Why this format?

Kuniyoshi, Utagawa. "Susanoo slaying Orochi" Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susanoo-no-Mikoto> accessed 5/10/2021.



My Experience with Shinto



“Amaterasu, the Sun Goddess, rises from a cave” theculturetrip.com,

<https://theculturetrip.com/asia/japan/articles/7-shinto-kami-youll-meet-in-japan/> accessed 5/10/2021

The Paper Itself

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Intro to World Mythology

Scholarly Annotation of "The Eight-Forked Serpent"

So, having been expelled, [His-Swift-impetuous-Male-Augustness]^{1,2} descended to a place [called] Tori-kami at the head-waters of the River Hi in the Land of Idzumo. At this time some chopsticks came floating down the stream. So His-Swift-Impetuous-Male-Augustness, thinking that there must be people at the head-waters of the river, went up it in quest of them, when he came upon an old man and an old woman,—two of them,—who had a young girl between them, and were weeping. Then he deigned to ask: "Who are ye?" So the old man replied, saying: "I am an Earthly Deity,³ Child of the Deity Great-Mountain-Possessor. I am called by the name of

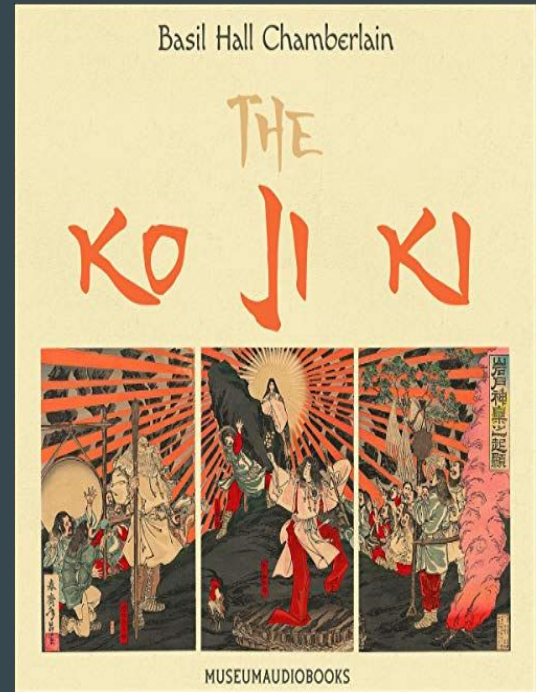
Footnotes:

1. This appears to be a literal translation of the god's full title used throughout the Kojiki, "Haya-Susanoo-no-Mikoto": -"Haya" = "His swift" -"Susanoo" = "Impetuous Male" -"no Mikoto" = "Augustness"
2. Chamberlain refers to a definition of "augustness" that is synonymous with nobility and/or high status, respect, et cetera.
3. This marks an instance where Donald Phillip's translation of the Kojiki and Chamberlain's align perfectly. While the original text suggests that "Earthly Deity" can also be translated as "God of the Land," both authors recognize the context and posit "Earthly Deity" to contrast with other uses of "Heavenly Deity."

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Research Process

- Heavily collaborative
- Print + online synthesis
- Using my resources!



“Cover Page of Basil Hall’s Kojiki.”
Amazon.com, accessed 5/10/2021

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Philippi, Donald L. *Kojiki*. University of Tokyo Press, 1968.

Picken, Stuart D. B. *Historical Dictionary of Shinto*. 2nd ed., Scarecrow Press, 2011.

Pierson, J. L. "The Characters and Their Part in the Structure of Japanese and Chinese Sentences." *Monumenta Nipponica*, vol. 11, no. 1, 1955, pp. 15–43. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/2382993. Accessed 29 Mar. 2021.