

THE BEGINNING OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

*The Sacred Book
of Japan's Hidden Christians*



TRANSLATED BY CRISTAL WHELAN

Christal Whelan

**The Beginning of Heaven and Earth: The Sacred Book of Japan's Hidden Christians
(Nanzan Library of Asian Religion & Culture)**



[continue reading](#)

In 1865 a French priest was visited by a small group of Japanese at his recently built church in Nagasaki. The Kakure Kirishitan, or "concealed Christians," experienced practiced their religion in magic formula for many hundred years. They were descendants of Japan's 1st Christians, the survivors of brutal religious persecution beneath the Tokugawa government. Today, the few Kakure Kirishitan communities still around look at the Tenchi as strange and flawed, expressing a distorted form of Christianity. Whelan gives a full translation of the unique function accompanied by an illuminating commentary that provides the initial theory of origin and evolution of the Tenchi. Sometime after their visit the priest received a copy of the Kakure bible, the Tenchi Hajimari no Koto, "Starting of Heaven and Earth," an intriguing amalgam of Bible stories, Japanese fables, and Roman Catholic doctrine. It is, however, the just text produced by the Kakure Kirishitan that depicts their extremely syncretistic tradition and provides a colorful window by which to examine the dynamics of spiritual acculturation.



[continue reading](#)

Fascinating cross of history, sociology and religion In the 16th century Catholic Christianity was producing tremendous progress in Japan. The Holy One would go to Rome and then returns to end up being killed by Yorotetsu, but then goes to heaven, returns to Earth for 40 times to teach his mind disciple - Pappa. Much of the conversion was superficial and a product of opportunism and politics, but there is also a layer of Japanese who converted due to the Christian message of hope and individual dignity. Her virtue can be in a way that she ascends to heave in a flower wagon, then returns and provides birth to the boy, and has adventures. By the end of the 16th century, there was a sea change in Japanese-Christian interactions as the newly empowered Shoguns outlawed Christianity, ejected missionaries and executed in cruel and horrible ways those that refused to apostatize. Nevertheless, notwithstanding the repression, Christianity went underground and survived for another 300 years, until Japan was reopened through the 1860s. The Tenchi is preceded by an excellent introduction that delivers the historical and sociological context of the Kakure

Kurishitan and some insights into the writing of the Tenchi. The Christian stories were barely understood and, more importantly, the context of the tales was lacking. Hidden Christians ("Kakure Kurishitan") experienced to interpolate the connections through their understanding and myths and through the theology that Buddhism experienced to offer. This book supplies the only written record of the Kakure Kurishitan story - the Tenchi, also called "The Beginning of Heaven and Earth." The Tenchi is fascinating. I found this fascinating since I read Therefore, the Tenchi has a Creation myth, but God is usually "Deusu" and Lucifer is usually "Yusuhero." Deusu has more ranks and forms than even the Buddha; One thing I wonder about following reading this text is what enduring role the Japanese attitude toward Kakure Kurishitan had on latest history, particularly Japan's actions in World War II. Yusehero convinces Adan and Ewe to consume the fruit of the masan, which results in their eviction from Pariaso and Ewe becoming turned into a pet in Middle Heaven. There exists a flood tale and Deusu divides himself into two people - Deusu and the divine boy, Hiiryo-sama. Maruya appears as a lovely virgin who is courted by the King of Ronzon - which is the Philippines. Peasants who was simply treated as little better than horses discovered something attractive in a religion that taught that for some reason they had a dignity that the Lord of the universe cherished. The Kings of Mexico, France and Turkey visit the Holy One, but tip of the King of the Land, Yorotetsu, about the Holy One. The translator, Christal Whelan, points out that the people used for "Kurishitan" had been transformed to communicate either "to cut limbs until they bleed" or "a demon's ideology starving for the lifeless. The Jesuits, Franciscans and Augustinians were starting churches and seminaries and had converted - superficially, perhaps - something like 400,000 Japanese. The Holy One was betrayed by Judatsu, who hanged himself in grief after being admonished "Right now look here, Judatsu, you'll want betrayed our get better at. It recounts the brutal persecutions, the closure of Japan to almost all foreign commerce, and the country's reopening in the nineteenth century." Just what a strange melange; An excellent addition to any Asian Religions Book Collection The author offers an interesting window right into a little known segment of history. Throughout that period, Christianity mutated. Certainly, the Japanese had a poor reputation for his or her treatment of prisoners from Asian countries, but you have to question if this little bit of background played any part in Japanese atrocities like the Bataan Death March. Yusuhero tries to usurp Deusu's place prior to the anjo and Domeigosu-no-Adan and Domeigosu-no-Ewe, which needs Adan and Ewe to state the salve regina, which is the basis of the Contrition orassho. Yorotetsu offers his retainers, Ponsha and Piroto, slaughter the innocent children of the land." Kakure Kurishitans were getting crucified up to few years before the opening of Japan in the 1860s. In a nutshell, Japan had a almost 300 year history of treating Christianity as a kind of devil worship, contamination that had to be routed out with intense prejudice. I would recommend this reserve to anyone thinking about cultural hybridity, religious persecution, Japanese religions, and Japanese or Portuguese background. That appears unlikely. If it didn't, after that what would we expect when people conditioned to believe that Christians had been loathsome devil worshippers acquired prisoners who had been Christian? The Tenchi itself offers numerous footnotes that result in information that is needed for unraveling the frequently confusing text. It is as if you had to instruct some group of children the fundamental elements of Christianity and they acquired to reconstruct a coherent tale from everything you told them 40 years later. In Search of Japan's Hidden Christians: A Story of Suppression, Secrecy and Survival and Five Stars A fascinating go through and look into a difficult amount of time in Japanese Christianity. it is as if someone tried to recreate the annals lately 20th century America from the ground upwards but Marvel comics. Should you have a pastime in Christianity in Asian cultures, you will appreciate this book. Silence, nonetheless it might curiosity people thinking about Christian history, Japanese background or the sociology of religion. Two Stars The notes before and after were a lot more interesting compared to the text itself. A Perennial Good Read This is a completely unique book. It is partly a richly annotated translation of the Bible of the Hidden Christians of Japan that shows abundantly how they

fused and/or confused elements of European Christianity with regional Japanese folk tales, and elements from Shinto and Buddhism. The introduction to the book is a wonderful condensation of Japanese history from the sixteenth to the twentieth century as it impacted the first Christian converts and their contemporary descendants. It provides glimpses of both 'tradition clash' and 'culture enamourment' between European investors and missionaries and Japan of various classes. You treacherous bastard. The author/translator can be an anthropologist and a scholar of Portuguese and Japanese. She resided among these Hidden Christian communities in the remote Goto Islands off the Nagasaki coast in the 1990s, a fact that infuses the book with a sense that is a 'living' custom. Did this attitude die out between 1860 and 1940?

download free The Beginning of Heaven and Earth: The Sacred Book of Japan's Hidden Christians (Nanzan Library of Asian Religion & Culture) mobi

download The Beginning of Heaven and Earth: The Sacred Book of Japan's Hidden Christians (Nanzan Library of Asian Religion & Culture) epub

[download free Decentralized Decision-Making in Schools: The Theory and Evidence on School-Based Management \(Directions in Development\) djvu](#)

[download Decentralization and Governance in the Ghana Health Sector \(World Bank Studies\) mobi](#)

[download free Codebreakers: Arne Beurling and the Swedish Crypto Program During World War II mobi](#)