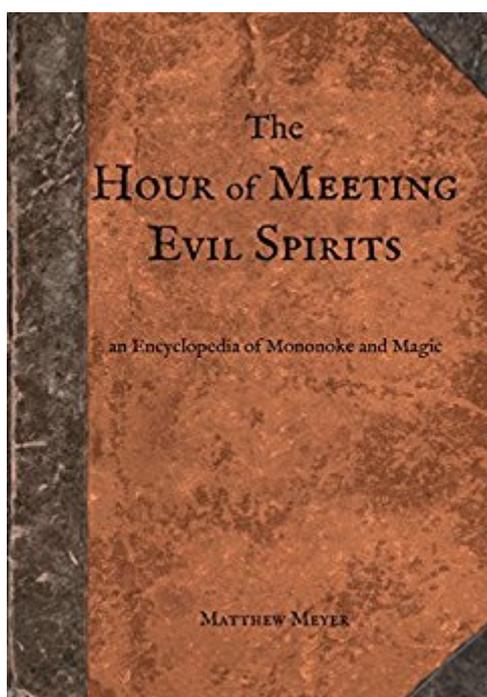


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The Hour Of Meeting Evil Spirits: An Encyclopedia Of Mononoke And Magic (Yokai Series Book 2)



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 scaryâeven evilâ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 hourâthe border between daylight and darknessâ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

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Customer Reviews

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.

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