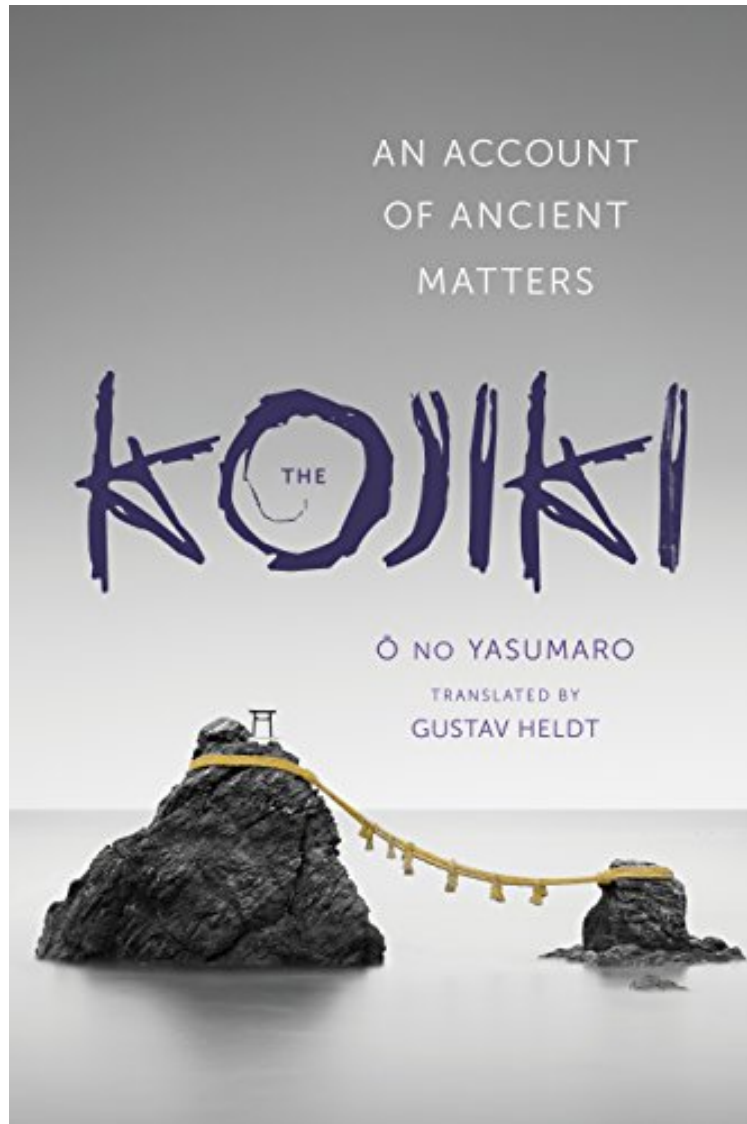


(Download ebook) The Kojiki: An Account of Ancient Matters (Translations from the Asian Classics)

The Kojiki: An Account of Ancient Matters (Translations from the Asian Classics)

no Yasumaro O

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no Yasumaro O : The Kojiki: An Account of Ancient Matters (Translations from the Asian Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Kojiki: An Account of Ancient Matters (Translations from the Asian Classics):

32 of 33 people found the following review helpful. Best Edition for the Common ReaderBy DrifterThis review is for Heldt's edition, which is the most affordable modern translation of the Kojiki. This translation is very readable to a modern audience, and although I do not read Japanese, I've read scholarly reviews praising Heldt's accuracy. I do have

two major issues with this edition. The first is Heldt's insistence in translating the names of characters and places. It makes it very difficult to keep track of who is who, and where events are taking place. I lived a year in Japan and I couldn't tell you where most of the stories in the Kojiki took place from this edition because instead of saying "They went to Izumo" Heldt gives us "They went to Bellowing Clouds". Likewise I cannot cross reference anything concerning characters because their Japanese names are not used. My second issue was Heldt's decision to not include notes on the text (foot or end notes). He does include a glossary of personal and place names, but these are listed exclusively under Heldt's translated names (and these translations are exclusively his own, not a scholarly consensus). This again makes cross referencing very difficult. Ultimately this edition is best for someone who is only interested in reading the stories of the Kojiki and necessarily looking to learn much about the politics and such behind the text. As for the Kojiki itself, I found it to be rather disappointing. It does contain some stories of the Shinto Kami early on, but more than anything this is an inflated genealogical text establishing the tradition of the Japanese Imperial family. I found few of the stories to be exciting. The only tale I found to be emotionally engaging at all was that of Yamato-takeru (here called Yamato Brave). Certain sections of the Kojiki literally just list an emperor's name, their consorts, their offsprings, and the years they reigned. I would only recommend the Kojiki to someone who is really curious about the earliest story of Shinto Kami or with an interest in the establishment of the tradition of the a Japanese Imperial family. If you really want to read the Kojiki and don't want to pay tons of money for a more scholarly developed edition, then this is the one to get.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Mandatory Reading
By Patrick Lovell
Mandatory for anyone serious about understanding Japan
0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Vivid translation of the imposing ancient myth of the creation ...
By R. E. Momster
Vivid translation of the imposing ancient myth of the creation of Japan. Dispels any illusions that the Greeks and Egyptians cornered all the wild weirdness conceivable in a cast of daring and demonic divinities.

An accomplished and approachable translation of a crucially important work that has been desperately in need of such a new rendition. (David Lurie, Columbia University)
A translation of the Kojiki that is accurate and faithful to the original and at the same time exciting to read. A key element of the Kojiki mythology is the power of naming, and Heldt's decision to translate the names of its various gods and royal figures has brought the narrative alive in a way that it has never been before in English. (Torquil Duthie, University of California, Los Angeles)
Heldt's new, complete, and contemporary translation brings vibrancy and clarity to this often politicized work of ancient Japan. The poetry is rendered exquisitely, the narratives unfold with clarity; the translation itself is at once impeccable and imaginative. A master work that will generate discussions far into the future. (James E. Ketelaar, University of Chicago)
The Kojiki has a lot to interest those with a strong passion for Japanese literature; an essential read if you have more than a superficial interest in the culture. (Tony's Reading List)
For the reader willing to surrender his or her empirical insidencies - to luxuriate in the beauty of language - the Kojiki is time well spent. (The Japan Times)
The first time a translator has gone so far as to translate the names of the spirits, rulers, and places, an addition that makes the text infinitely more meaningful. (CHOICE)
This rich and accessible translation will be welcomed by specialists and students alike, and will no doubt invite renewed interest in the Kojiki as literature in the English reading audience. (Ann Wehmeyer H-Asia)
Gustav Heldt's translation of the Kojiki provides the English-speaking reader with the easiest access to Japan's oldest extant book. (Japanese Journal of Religious Studies)
About the Author
O no Yasumaro (d. 723) was a nobleman of the Japanese court whose O clan ruled over an area bearing the same name near the eighth-century capital of Nara.
Gustav Heldt is an associate professor of Japanese literature at the University of Virginia and the author of *The Pursuit of Harmony: Poetry and Power in Early Heian Japan*.