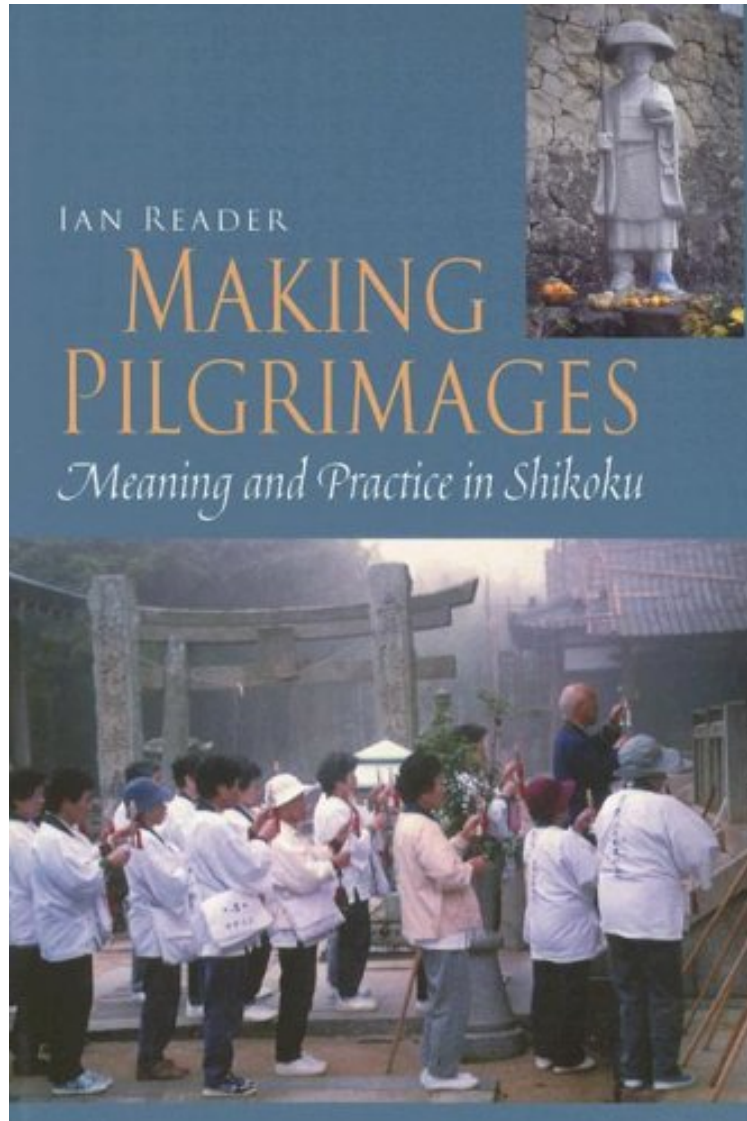


[Free] Making Pilgrimages: Meaning and Practice in Shikoku

## Making Pilgrimages: Meaning and Practice in Shikoku

*Ian Reader*

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**Ian Reader : Making Pilgrimages: Meaning and Practice in Shikoku** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Making Pilgrimages: Meaning and Practice in Shikoku:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive view of the Shikoku Pilgrimage By AlchemistGeorge This is the fourth book I've read about the pilgrimage: Statler's Japanese Pilgrimage, The 1918 Shikoku Pilgrimage of Takamura Itsue, and Lisa Dempster's Neon Pilgrim. This is easily the most comprehensive. The book presents many points of view. How do the residents of Shikoku view the pilgrimage (and pilgrims)? How do the temple priests view the bus and walking pilgrims? The tour companies and tour guides? The bus pilgrims? The

walkers? And how does the pilgrimage today fit into the history of Shikoku, and Japanese pilgrimages, and pilgrimages in general? Maybe its a slight exaggeration, but I would say "its all here." It gives you a pretty concrete sense of what it is like to either walk the route, or take the bus. Almost everything - except its not a guide book. This is obviously a book written by an academic, a lot of thoroughly reasoned statements carefully qualified, footnotes, obviously a lot of primary and secondary research. Yet easy to read, fun to read, and informative. One of the appendices even gives estimated costs for doing the pilgrimage! Strongly recommended for people looking for anything more than a first person account of doing the pilgrimage. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Traveling through a Mandala By marci I walked the Shikoku Henro Pilgrimage in 1989. It was the experience of a lifetime and Reader captures the history and experience of the Pilgrimage in very readable detail. Reading this book brought back so many memories. Spectacular views of rice fields, sea coasts, mountain ridges. Long discussions with temple priests. Meeting kids and their grandparents who had never seen a 'gaijin' (foreigner) outside of TV or photos. The trucks zooming past me in long dark tunnels. Meeting other walkers along misty mountain paths. Waiting for an hour behind the tourist bus pilgrims to get my temple stamps. The overwhelming generosity of the people of Shikoku Island and others as they gave me gifts of tangerines, sweets and cups of tea, and more. I met and spent time with several of the people he wrote about, and Reader captures them and their experiences along the Pilgrim trail and temples. Through this fine book I was able to link my experiences others across a thousand years of making the pilgrimage. Thank you Ian Reader, fellow Henro! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Shikoku Pilgrimage By Chandra I have started reading the book and have only just completed the first chapter. From what I can judge so far, it is a very detailed study of the Shikoku pilgrimage, its historical evolution and its significance from religious and cultural aspects. The text is very well written and I have found the narration very interesting even though this book or its subject would not arouse much enthusiasm among many if judged only by its title. The author is commended for the quality of his presentation. The book will be extremely very useful to me and my wife who intend to embark on this pilgrimage as soon as we have sufficient funds. The condition of the used book I purchased was good and I am happy with it. Thanks Chandra

This study involves a fourteen-hundred-kilometer-long pilgrimage around Japan's fourth largest island, Shikoku. In traveling the circuit of the eighty-eight Buddhist temples that make up the route, pilgrims make their journey together with Kō Daishi (774-835), the holy miracle-working figure who is at the heart of the pilgrimage. Once seen as a marginal practice, recent media portrayal of the pilgrimage as a symbol of Japanese cultural heritage has greatly increased the number of participants, both Japanese and foreign. In this absorbing look at the nature of the pilgrimage, Ian Reader examines contemporary practices and beliefs in the context of historical development, taking into account theoretical considerations of pilgrimage as a mode of activity and revealing how pilgrimages such as Shikoku may change in nature over the centuries. This rich ethnographic work covers a wide range of pilgrimage activity and behavior, drawing on accounts of pilgrims traveling by traditional means on foot as well as those taking advantage of the new package bus tours, and exploring the pilgrimages role in the everyday lives of participants and the people of Shikoku alike. It discusses the various ways in which the pilgrimage is made and the forces that have shaped it in the past and in the present, including history and legend, the island's landscape and residents, the narratives and actions of the pilgrims and the priests who run the temples, regional authorities, and commercial tour operators and bus companies. In studying the Shikoku pilgrimage from anthropological, historical, and sociological perspectives, Reader shows in vivid detail the ambivalence and complexity of pilgrimage as a phenomenon that is simultaneously local, national, and international and both marginal and integral to the lives of its participants. Critically astute yet highly accessible, *Making Pilgrimages* will be welcomed by those with an interest in anthropology, religious studies, and Japanese studies, and will be essential for anyone contemplating making the pilgrimage themselves.

"This well-researched work, enriched by the author's long personal experience of the 88-temple pilgrim circuit of the Japanese island of Shikoku, shows remarkable depth of familiarity with Japanese scholarship and history." More than 20 years in the making, Ian Reader's book on the Shikoku pilgrimage is simply the best book in English on the subject. If you are planning on making the pilgrimage in Shikoku you will need one of the many guide books, but for background information this book is indispensable. . . . Like most of Reader's other works, this book gives a solid insight into the meanings and practices of Japanese religion today.-- "Japan Visitor" Masterful. . . . Reader has offered the field of Japanese religions an impressive piece of scholarly research, one that is not only informative, but frequently highly entertaining.-- "Monumenta Nipponica" Both a deeply personal appreciation of the experience and a very detailed description of the Japanese practice and its historical background, together with reflection on the comparative notions of pilgrimage and analysis of the theoretical implications.-- "Journal of Japanese Studies" Reader's study contributes not only to Japanese area studies and the study of Japanese religion, but also to the broader field of pilgrimage studies and anthropology. . . . [It is] well rounded and entirely successful. Reader's vivid prose makes this study a pleasure to read.-- "Religious Studies" More than 20 years in the making, Ian Reader's book on the Shikoku pilgrimage is simply the best book in English on the subject. If you are planning on making the pilgrimage in Shikoku

you will need one of the many guide books, but for background information this book is indispensable. . . . Like most of Reader's other works, this book gives a solid insight into the meanings and practices of Japanese religion today.-- "Japan Visitor"Reader's study contributes not only to Japanese area studies and the study of Japanese religion, but also to the broader field of pilgrimage studies and anthropology. . . . [It is] well rounded and entirely successful. Reader's vivid prose makes this study a pleasure to read.-- "Religious Studies "Well-researched . . . more data-rich and scholarly than Oliver Statler's Japanese Pilgrimage-- "Choice" More than 20 years in the making, Ian Reader's book on the Shikoku pilgrimage is simply the best book in English on the subject. If you are planning on making the pilgrimage in Shikoku you will need one of the many guide books, but for background information this book is indispensable. . . . Like most of Reader's other works, this book gives a solid insight into the meanings and practices of Japanese religion today. (Japan Visitor)Masterful. . . . Reader has offered the field of Japanese religions an impressive piece of scholarly research, one that is not only informative, but frequently highly entertaining. (Monumenta Nipponica)Both a deeply personal appreciation of the experience and a very detailed description of the Japanese practice and its historical background, together with reflection on the comparative notions of pilgrimage and analysis of the theoretical implications. (Journal of Japanese Studies)Reader's study contributes not only to Japanese area studies and the study of Japanese religion, but also to the broader field of pilgrimage studies and anthropology. . . . [It is] well rounded and entirely successful. Reader's vivid prose makes this study a pleasure to read. (Religious Studies )Well-researched . . . more data-rich and scholarly than Oliver Statler's Japanese Pilgrimage (Choice)About the AuthorIan Reader is professor of religious studies at Lancaster University. He is the author of numerous books and articles on aspects of Japanese social and religious life.