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*Allan G. Grapard*

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## Mountain Mandalas

Shugendō in Kyushu

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#3218376 in Books Allan G Grapard 2016-02-25 2016-02-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 233.93 x .75 x 6.141, .0 #File Name: 1474249000320 pages Mountain Mandalas Shugendo in Kyushu Bloomsbury Shinto Studies | File size: 35.Mb

**Allan G. Grapard : Mountain Mandalas: Shugendo in Kyushu (Bloomsbury Shinto Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mountain Mandalas: Shugendo in Kyushu (Bloomsbury Shinto Studies):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A brilliant study of the revival of the yamabushi in English with a inventive narrative style. By P. Nagy A socio-political view of an ancient Japanese sacred circumnavigating mountain practice restored in the last few decades. Beside the book the publisher offers a free pdf that includes further documentation of Shugendo practices and rituals. You may access it at [media.bloomsbury.com](http://media.bloomsbury.com) on the book's page or google 'mountain-mandalas-web-final.pdf' Even without this supplement this is one of the best socio-political accounts of the demise and revival of the yamabushi in English. A brilliant study with a inventive narrative style.

In *Mountain Mandalas* Allan G. Grapard provides a thought-provoking history of one aspect of the Japanese Shugendo tradition in Kyushu, by focusing on three cultic systems: Mount Hiko, Usa-Hachiman, and the Kunisaki Peninsula. Grapard draws from a rich range of theorists from the disciplines of geography, history, anthropology, sociology, and humanistic geography and situates the historical terrain of his research within a much larger context. This book includes detailed analyses of the geography of sacred sites, translations from many original texts, and discussions on rituals and social practices. Grapard studies Mount Hiko and the Kunisaki Peninsula, which was very influential in Japanese cultural and religious history throughout the ages. We are introduced to important information on archaic social structures and their religious traditions; the development of the cult to the deity Hachiman; a history of the interactions between Buddhism and local cults in Japan; a history of the Shugendo tradition of mountain religious ascetics, and much more. *Mountain Mandalas* sheds light on important aspects of Japan's religion and culture, and will be of interest to all scholars of Shinto and Japanese religion. Extensive translations of source material can be found on the book's webpage.

*Mountain Mandalas* is thought provoking and Grapard's prose, ever inventive and sometimes even amazing, makes it a fun read. It is a rich and rewarding book for specialists in Japanese religious history and should provoke a range of discussions and further research for years to come. *Journal of Japanese Studies*  
About the Author Allan G. Grapard is Professor Emeritus in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara, USA.