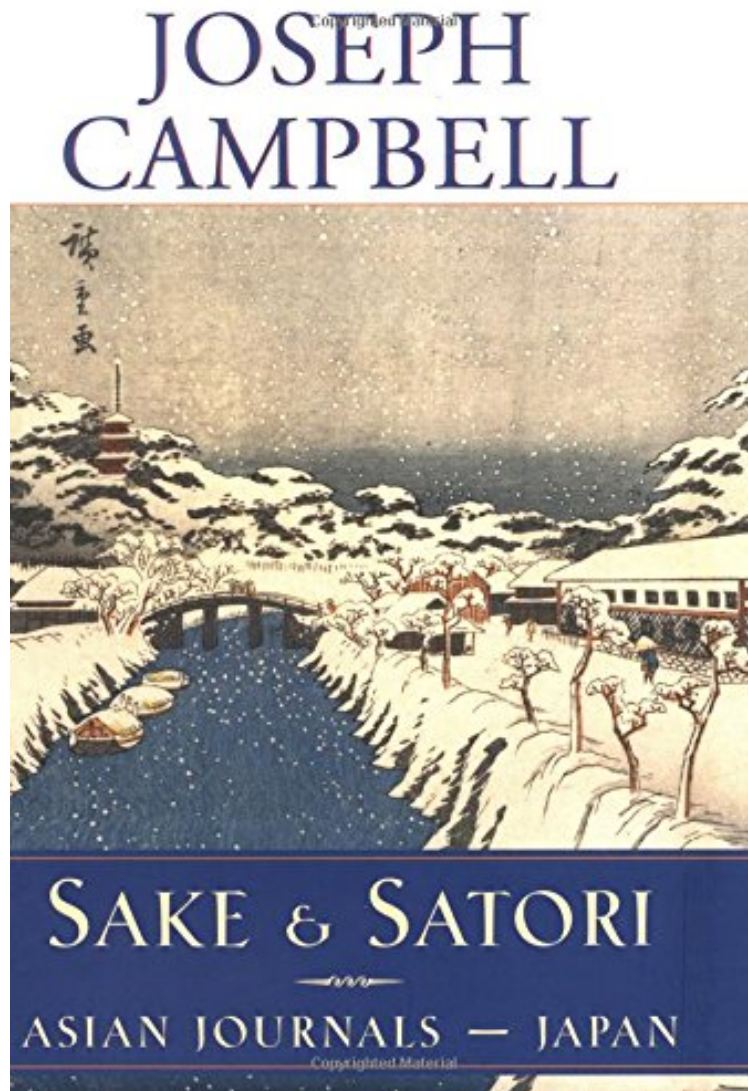


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## Sake and Satori: Asian Journals -- Japan (The Collected Works of Joseph Campbell)

Joseph Campbell

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**Joseph Campbell : Sake and Satori: Asian Journals -- Japan (The Collected Works of Joseph Campbell)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sake and Satori: Asian Journals -- Japan (The Collected Works of Joseph Campbell):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A rare glimpse into a brilliant scholar's immersive journeys in post-war Japan By Darby [Review written Aug 2004] This review covers "Sake Satori", which is part 2 (of 2) of a real-life

journey around the world undertaken by Joseph Campbell. "Baksheesh Brahman" (part 1 of 2) covers the first half of his adventure. Allow me to backpedal a bit, because, as with nearly all of Dr. Campbell's works, a bit of background information and explanation is required in order to put things in their proper perspective. Back in 1955, Dr. Campbell was a senior professor in the literature department of Sarah Lawrence College in the USA, where he taught classes in medieval literature and comparative religion. He was also a master of languages (speaking more than 12 at the time, and later many more), a recognized authority on art history, and already fast becoming a highly sought after authority and lecturer in a wide range of fields in various academic circles. He was one of those rare and blazingly bright intellects that people just seemed to LOVE to gravitate to and hover around, like moths to an open flame. Even after his death in 1987, people continue to be fired by his brilliant and far-reaching works ... even though much of it was unfinished at the time of his death and is only just now being released posthumously (as this book was). In any case, in 1955 he received a very generous travel grant from the Bollingen Foundation that enabled him to take a 1 year hiatus from his teaching duties, and literally travel around the world. During those travels, he kept a daily personal journal of his adventures, including his day to day experiences, meetings conversations (both chance, social, and professional), thoughts and insights, and even his plans for the future. That journal formed the source material for 2 books (published posthumously):\* "Baksheesh Brahman: Asian Journals - India (part 1 of 2)\* "Sake Satori: Asian Journals - Japan" (part 2 of 2)

In 1954, famed mythologist Joseph Campbell traveled, at age 50, to Asia for the first time. In this second volume of his Asian journals, he continues East after nearly seven months in India, moving through Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and finally coming to rest, for a full five months, in Japan. Fueled by his remarkable eye for cultural differences and similarities, yet written through the unjaded perspective of a remarkably erudite teacher on his first trip to the Asia he has studied for most of his life, Sake and Satori is a unique snapshot of 1950s Asia and its rapidly changing post-colonial and Cold War tensions.