

Heike Monogatari [The Tale of the Heike]. Translated by Kitagawa Hiroshi and Bruce T. Tsuchida. Tokyo, Japan: University of Tokyo Press, 1975. ISBN: 9780860081883, 9780860081890. Vol. I, p. 5; Vol. II, pp. 519-523, 676-689.

The legends of the Gempei war an integral part of the Japanese identity. Even if they describe factual events, how they do it and that these events were held dear so long means that they've attained fictional status. Their characters are Jungian archetypes, acting upon the subconscious beliefs of the Samurai who took them as their own stories.

Book 1, Chapter I, "Gion Temple."

- What are virtues should a man have?

Book 9, Chapter IV, "The Death of Yoshinaka."

- Why is so much hyperbole used?

Book 11, Chapter IX, "Drowning of the Emperor."

- How do these stories show of merging of Shinto and Buddhist beliefs?

Book 11, Chapter X, "The Death of Noritsune."

- With what attitude do the warriors jump into the water?
- Why didn't the warriors wait on the boat to fight?

Book 11, Chapter XI, "The Sacred Mirror Returned to the Capital."

- What emotions are appropriate at the prospect of capture?

Book 11, Chapter XII, "The Sacred Sword."

- What is the metaphoric significance of the jewel and the sword lost?
- These are ostensibly stories of fact. Is it appropriate to treat them as culturally-significant metaphors?

Tsunemoto, Tamamoto. *Hagakure: The Book of the Samurai*. Tokyo, Japan: Hokuseido Press, 1980. ISBN: 9780893461690. Vol. I, Sections 2-5, 9, 12, pp. 35-40.

Bushido is the code of the samurai, and here's a code to that code. It almost amounts to "kill yourself", but not quite. Death is the central theme of the paradigm, and honor, cowardice, and one's lord are all organized by it.

- What is meant by "Bushido, I have found out, lies in dying"?
- Why is the conceit of death better than the conceit of life?
- Does this work praise death?
- What distinguishes a coward?

- When is your retainership over?
- What does it mean to think of your lord "above everything else"?
- How did Buddhism and Shinto combine to form Bushido?

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