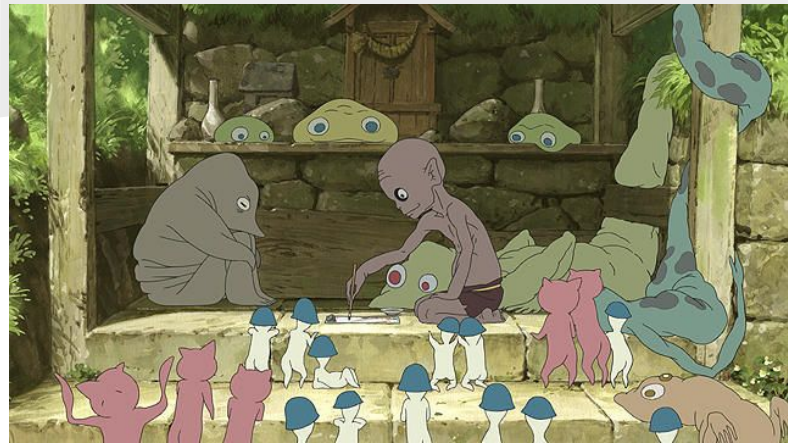
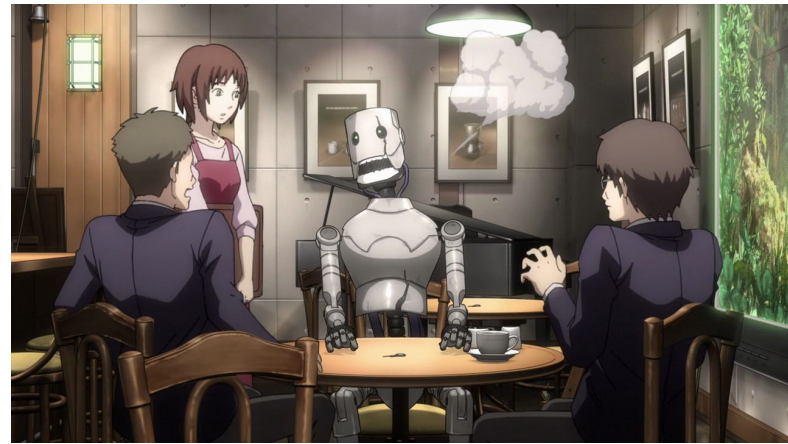


Social, Cultural, and Religious Aspects of Japan as Presented through Anime



*Alex Craig
JAPN 313
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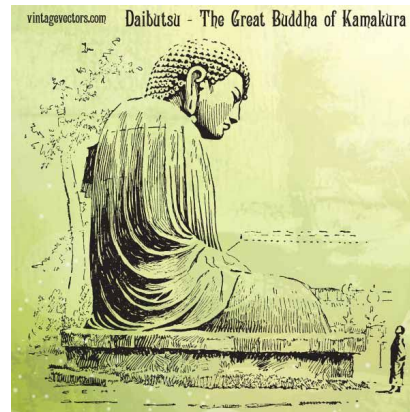


Religion and Culture and Society

- Religion
 - Shinto: belief and respect of spirits in nature
 - Buddhism: belief that acts in this life affect the next
- Culture
 - respectful
 - polite
 - inherently religious
- Society
 - prideful
 - prejudice
 - inherently religious

Hi no Tori (1969, Osamu Tezuka)

- Represents Japan's Buddhist religion
- Deals with the Buddhist concepts of karma and reincarnation
- Takes place during the Nara period (710-94)
- Buddhism officially brought to Japan in 552
- Akanemaru suffers the consequences for his selfish actions



Nausicaa (1984, Hayao Miyazaki)

- Represents Japan's cultural behaviors
- Respect for nature and living things
- Give and take relationship for survival
- Comments on how society is slowly destroying nature



Time of Eve (2010, Yasuhiro Yoshiura)

- Represents Japan's social behaviors
- Prejudice represented through Ethics Committee
- Comments on human attachment and idea of souls inhabiting non-living objects



A Letter to Momo (2011, Hiroyuki Okiura)

- Represents Japan's Shinto religion
- Give and take relationship for survival
- Represent different aspects of nature
 - Iwa (岩)
 - Kawa (川)
 - Mame (豆)



Conclusion

- Dilemmas in Japanese society such as prejudice, discrimination, and inequality are represented in *Time of Eve*
 - Robots can be seen as representing those who do not fit the social norm
 - discrimination against those who are different (racism, xenophobia, ableism)
 - Ethics Committee represents supremacist and extremist groups
 - seen through protests and advertisements against robot inclusion in society
 - one example is the anti-Korean extremist group Zaitokukai who call for the end of welfare and other privileges given to members of Japan's ethnic Korean community
- Cultural behaviors such as respect for, dependence upon, and destruction of nature are presented through *Nausicaa*
 - Seven Days of Fire, an apocalyptic war, destroys civilization
 - Toxic Jungle and Sea of Decay are created as a result
 - reflective of anti-war sentiment as it destroys the natural world which we depend upon for our existence

Conclusion cont.

- Representation of Shinto related beliefs are presented in *A Letter To Momo*
 - Characters of Iwa, Kawa, and Mame reflect the belief that everything in nature contains a spirit
 - Iwa, Kawa, and Mame are sent by Momo's recently deceased father to protect and watch over her
 - the dead and living mutually remember and look after each other
- Representation of Buddhist related beliefs are presented in *Hi no Tori*
 - Karma represented as a powerful force
 - Gao, a murderous bandit, struggles through life after being abandoned by his home village. He learns empathy in losing a woman he fell in love with, devoting his life to carpentry, finding happiness and contentment in the end
 - Akanemaru, a sculptor in search of the Phoenix, becomes blinded by his desire for perfection and in the end is left with nothing