

# Final Days Japanese Culture And Choice At The End Of Life

**Karen Laura Thornber** 

#### Final Days Japanese Culture And Choice At The End Of Life:

Final Days Susan Orpett Long, 2005-07-31 In postindustrial societies people must consciously define their individuality through the choices they make Recently death has become yet another realm of personal choice making a good death one in which we die in our own way Does culture matter in these decisions Final Days represents a new perspective on end of life decision making arguing that culture does make a difference but not as a checklist of customs or as the source of a moral code Grounded in rich ethnographic data the book offers a superb examination of how policy and meaning frame the choices Japanese make about how to die As an essay in descriptive bioethics it engages an extensive literature in the social sciences and bioethics to examine some of the answers people have constructed to end of life issues Like their counterparts in other postindustrial societies Japanese find no simple way of handling situations such as disclosure of diagnosis discontinuing or withholding treatment organ donation euthanasia and hospice Through interviews and case studies in hospitals and homes Susan Orpett Long offers a window on the ways in which ordinary people respond to serious illness and the process of dying Moving beyond stereotypes of stylized samurai violence and Buddhist meditation as Japanese cultural models of dying Long offers fresh insights into how experiential and social factors mediate between formal cultural rules and what people do Given the existence of various culturally legitimate scripts on how to die well and the complex nature of human relationships she makes a convincing and original argument that ambivalence need not be viewed as anomalous Indeed ambiguity and a diversity of views are not obstacles to the moral life of a society but rather are the raw material in postindustrial societies from which people construct meaningful deaths and thus meaningful lives The Routledge Handbook of Death and the Afterlife Candi K. Cann, 2018-06-27 This Handbook traces the history of the changing notion of what it means to die and examines the many constructions of afterlife in literature text ritual and material culture throughout time The Routledge Handbook of Death and the Afterlife is an outstanding reference source to the key topics problems and debates in this exciting subject Comprising twenty nine chapters by a team of international contributors the Handbook is divided into three parts and covers the following important themes The study of dying death and grief Disposal of the dead past present and future Representations of death narratives and rhetoric Youth meets death a juxtaposition Questionable deaths and afterlives suicide ghosts and avatars Material corpses and imagined afterlives around the world Within these sections central issues debates and problems are examined including the world of death and dying from various cultural viewpoints and timeframes cultural and social constructions of the definition of death disposal practices and views of the afterlife The Routledge Handbook of Death and the Afterlife is essential reading for students and researchers in religious studies philosophy anthropology and sociology **Spiritual Ends** Timothy O. Benedict, 2022-12-20 What role does religion play at the end of life in Japan Spiritual Ends draws on ethnographic fieldwork and interviews to provide an intimate portrayal of how spiritual care is provided to the dying in Japan Timothy O Benedict shows how hospice caregivers in Japan are appropriating and

reinterpreting global ideas about spirituality and the practice of spiritual care Benedict relates these findings to a longer story of how Japanese religious groups have pursued vocational roles in medical institutions as a means to demonstrate a so called healthy role in society Focusing on how care for the kokoro heart or mind is key to the practice of spiritual care this book enriches conventional understandings of religious identity in Japan while offering a valuable East Asian perspective to global conversations on the ways religion spirituality and medicine intersect at death Timothy Benedict has produced a work brimming with wisdom drawn from his work as a chaplain as well as a broad understanding of the place of religion in the lives of contemporary Japanese people HELEN HARDACRE Reischauer Institute Professor of Japanese Religions and Society Harvard University Benedict offers a highly original perspective and new insightful material providing a critical approach to the debate about spiritual care and spirituality ERICA BAFFELLI Professor of Japanese Studies University of Manchester Spiritual Ends reveals an unassuming approach to spiritual care that privileges human connections at life s end JACQUELINE STONE author of Right Thoughts at the Last Moment Buddhism and Deathbed Practices in Early Medieval Japan A discerning study of pain and comfort at the end of life and a story of the invention of spirituality in Japan which traffics between medical psychological and religious thought AMY B BOROVOY Professor of East Asian Studies Princeton University

Aging and Loss Jason Danely, 2015-01-02 By 2030 over 30% of the Japanese population will be 65 or older foreshadowing the demographic changes occurring elsewhere in Asia and around the world What can we learn from a study of the aging population of Japan and how can these findings inform a path forward for the elderly their families and for policy makers Based on nearly a decade of research Aging and Loss examines how the landscape of aging is felt understood and embodied by older adults themselves In detailed portraits anthropologist Jason Danely delves into the everyday lives of older Japanese adults as they construct narratives through acts of reminiscence social engagement and ritual practice and reveals the pervasive cultural aesthetic of loss and of being a burden Through first hand accounts of rituals in homes cemeteries and religious centers Danely argues that what he calls the self in suspense can lead to the emergence of creative participation in an economy of care In everyday rituals for the spirits older adults exercise agency and reinterpret concerns of social abandonment within a meaningful cultural narrative and by reimagining themselves and their place in the family through these rituals older adults in Japan challenge popular attitudes about eldercare Danely's discussion of health and long term care policy and community welfare organizations reveal a complex picture of Japan's aging society Modern Japan, Student Economy Edition Mikiso Hane, 2018-04-27 This book presents the essential facts of modern Japanese history It covers a variety of important developments through the 1990s giving special consideration to how traditional Japanese modes of thought and behavior have affected the recent developments Historical Dictionary of Postwar Japan William D. Hoover, 2018-12-15 Japan is a mix of the old and the new traditional and modern and old fashion and innovative It has traveled the road to a modern destination without totally losing sight of its traditions and values Although some in Japan

lament the passing of old ways Japan has held on to a reasonable amount of its traditions and values This is easier to find in its arts and crafts and its literature and films as well as in its social habits This book will introduce the broad sweep of people events and trends including the successes and failures of postwar Japan This second edition of Historical Dictionary of Postwar Japan contains a chronology an introduction appendixes and an extensive bibliography The dictionary section has over 500 cross referenced entries on important personalities politics economy foreign relations religion and culture This book is an excellent resource for students researchers and anyone wanting to know more about Japan **Nature's Embrace** Satsuki Kawano, 2010-03-31 Based on extensive fieldwork Nature's Embrace reveals the emerging pluralization of death rites in postindustrial Japan Low birth rates and high numbers of people remaining permanently single have led to a shortage of ceremonial caregivers most commonly married sons and their wives to ensure the transformation of the dead into ancestors resting in peace Consequently older adults are increasingly uncertain about who will perform memorial rites for them and maintain their graves In this study anthropologist Satsuki Kawano examines Japan's changing death rites from the perspective of those who elect to have their cremated remains scattered and celebrate their return to nature For those without children ash scattering is an effective strategy as it demands neither a grave nor a caretaker However the adoption of ash scattering is not limited to the childless By forgoing graves and lightening the burden on younger generations to care for them this new mortuary practice has given its proponents an increased sense of control over their posthumous existence By choosing ash scattering older adults contest their dependent status in Japanese society which increasingly views the aged as passive care recipients As such this study explores not only new developments in mortuary practices but also voices for increased self sufficiency in late adulthood and the elderly s reshaping of ties with younger generations Nature s Embrace offers insightful discussion on the rise of new death rites and ideologies older adults views of their death rites and Japan s changing society through the eyes of aging urbanites This book will engage a wide range of readers interested in death and culture mortuary ritual and changes in age relations in postindustrial societies Dilemmas of Adulthood Nancy R. Rosenberger, 2019-01-31 In Dilemmas of Adulthood Nancy Rosenberger investigates the nature of long term resistance in a longitudinal study of more than fifty Japanese women over two decades Between 25 and 35 years of age when first interviewed in 1993 the women represent a generation straddling the stable roles of post war modernity and the risky but exciting possibilities of late modernity By exploring the challenges they pose to cultural codes Rosenberger builds a conceptual framework of long term resistance that undergirds the struggles and successes of modern Japanese women Her findings resonate with broader anthropological questions about how change happens in our global local era and suggests a useful model with which to analyze ordinary lives in the late modern world Rosenberger's analysis establishes long term resistance as a vital type of social change in late modernity where the sway of media global ideas and friends vies strongly with the influence of family school and work Women are at the nexus of these contradictions dissatisfied with post war

normative roles in family work and leisure and yet in Japan as elsewhere committed to a search for self that shifts uneasily between self actualization and selfishness The women s rich narratives and conversations recount their ambivalent defiance of social norms and attempts to live diverse lives as acceptable adults In an epilogue their experiences are framed by the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami which is already shaping the future of their long term resistance Drawing on such theorists as Ortner Ueno the Comaroffs Melucci and Bourdieu Rosenberger posits that long term resistance is a process of tense irregular but insistent change that is characteristic of our era hammered out in the in between of local and global past and future the old virtues of womanhood and the new virtues of self actualization Her book is essential for anyone wishing to understand how Japanese women have maneuvered their lives in the economic decline and pushed for individuation in the 1990s and 2000s Suicide in Twentieth-Century Japan Francesca Di Marco, 2016-01-29 Japan s suicide phenomenon has fascinated both the media and academics although many questions and paradoxes embedded in the debate on suicide have remained unaddressed in the existing literature including the assumption that Japan is a Suicide Nation This tendency causes common misconceptions about the suicide phenomenon and its features Aiming to redress the situation this book explores how the idea of suicide in Japan was shaped reinterpreted and reinvented from the 1900s to the 1980s Providing a timely contribution to the underexplored history of suicide it also adds to the current heated debates on the contemporary way we organize our thoughts on life and death health and wealth on the value of the individual and on gender The book explores the genealogy and development of modern suicide in Japan by examining the ways in which beliefs about the nation's character historical views of suicide and the cultural legitimation of voluntary death acted to influence even the scientific conceptualization of suicide in Japan It thus unveils the way in which the language on suicide was transformed throughout the century according to the fluctuating relationship between suicide and the discourse on national identity and pathological and cultural narratives In doing so it proposes a new path to understanding the norms and mechanisms of the process of the conceptualization of suicide itself Filling in a critical gap in three particular fields of historical study the history of suicide the history of death and the cultural history of twentieth century Japan it will be of great interest to students and scholars of Japanese Studies and Japanese History The Routledge History of Death since 1800 Peter N. Stearns, 2020-10-13 The Routledge History of Death Since 1800 looks at how death has been treated and dealt with in modern history the history of the past 250 years in a global context through a mix of definite often quantifiable changes and a complex qualitative assessment of the subject The book is divided into three parts with the first considering major trends in death history and identifying widespread patterns of change and continuity in the material and cultural features of death since 1800 The second part turns to specifically regional experiences and the third offers more specialized chapters on key topics in the modern history of death Historical findings and debates feed directly into a current and prospective assessment of death as many societies transition into patterns of ageing that will further alter the death experience and challenge

modern reactions Thus a final chapter probes this topic by way of introducing the links between historical experience and current trajectories ensuring that the book gives the reader a framework for assessing the ongoing process as well as an understanding of the past Global in focus and linking death to a variety of major developments in modern global history the volume is ideal for all those interested in the multifaceted history of how death is dealt with in different societies over time and who want access to the rich and growing historiography on the subject Chapter 1 of this book is freely available as a downloadable Open Access PDF at http www taylorfrancis com under a Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial No Derivatives CC BY NC ND 4 0 license **Encyclopedia of Immigrant Health** Sana Loue, Martha Sajatovic, 2014-06-20 There is increasing interest in the scientific literature on immigrant health and its impact on disease transmission disease prevention health promotion well being on an individual and population level health policy and the cost of managing all these issues on an individual institutional national and global level The need for accurate and up to date information is particularly acute due to the increasing numbers of immigrants and refugees worldwide as the result of natural disasters political turmoil the growing numbers of immigrants to magnet countries and the increasing costs of associated health care that are being felt by governments around the world Format and Scope The first portion of the encyclopedia contains chapters that are approximately 25 to 40 manuscript pages in length Each overview chapter includes a list of references and suggested readings for cross referencing within the encyclopedia The opening chapters are Immigration in the Global Context Immigration Processes and Health in the U S A Brief History Alternative and Complementary Medicine Culture Specific Diagnoses Health Determinants Occupational and Environmental Health Methodological Issues in Immigrant Health Research Ethical Issues in Research with Immigrants and Refugees Ethical Issues in the Clinical Context The second portion of the book consists of alphabetical entries that relate to the health of immigrants Entries are interdisciplinary and are drawn from the following fields of study anthropology demographics history law linguistics medicine population studies psychology religion and sociology Each entry is followed by a listing of suggested readings and suggested resources and also links to related terms within the whole book Outstanding Features The book adopts a biopsychosocial historical approach to the topics covered in the chapters and the entries Each entry includes suggested readings and suggested resources The chapters and entries are written graduate level that is accessible to all academics researchers and professionals from diverse backgrounds We consider the audience for the entries to be well educated but a non expert in this area. The primary focus of the book is on the immigrant populations in and immigration to magnet countries References are made to worldwide trends and issues arising globally In addition to the comprehensive subject coverage the text also offers diverse perspectives The editors themselves reflect the multidisciplinary nature of the topics with expertise in psychiatry law epidemiology anthropology and social work Authors similarly reflect diverse disciplines When Death Falls Apart Hannah Gould, 2023-12-11 In a remote area of Awaji Island the grave of the graves ohaka no haka houses the material artifacts of

Japan's discarded death rights In the past the Japanese dead would be transformed into ancestors through years of ritual offerings in the home at Buddhist altars called butsudan But in twenty first century Japan this intergenerational system of care is rapidly collapsing due to falling birthrates secularization and economic downturn And so down the mountainside wooden Buddhist statues and altars burn on carefully tended bonfires displaced from their domestic sites of honor Though once present in nearly every Japanese home butsudan are increasingly spurned by younger generations. Through the lens of this domestic altar Gould asks What happens when religious technology becomes obsolete In noisy carpentry studios flashy funeral showrooms the messy houses of widowers and the cramped kitchens where women prepare memorial feasts Gould traces the butsudan alongside the Buddhist lifecycle exploring how they are made circulate within religious and funerary economies come to mediate intimate exchanges between the living and the dead fall into disuse and maybe are remade Gould suggests how this form might be reborn for the modern world 3D printed altars inspired by sleek Scandinavian design and new materials that embrace impermanence and decay such as in green burial Read against a long tradition of intergenerational memorialization Japan's contemporary deathscape offers a case study in a new kind of necrosociality based in transitory experiences that seek to disentangle the world of the living from that of the dead Through Japanese Eyes Yohko Tsuji,2020-11-13 In Through Japanese Eyes based on her thirty year research at a senior center in upstate New York anthropologist Yohko Tsuji describes old age in America from a cross cultural perspective Comparing aging in America and in her native Japan she discovers that notable differences in the panhuman experience of aging are rooted in cultural differences between these two countries and that Americans have strongly negative attitudes toward aging because it represents the antithesis of cherished American values especially independence Tsuji reveals that American culture despite its seeming lack of guidance for those aging plays a pivotal role in elders lives simultaneously assisting and constraining them Furthermore the author's lengthy period of research illustrates major changes in her interlocutors lives incorporating their declines and death and significant shifts in the culture of aging in American society as Tsuji herself gets to know American culture and grows into senescence herself Through Japanese Eyes offers an ethnography of aging in America from a cross cultural perspective based on a lengthy period of research It illustrates how older Americans cope with the gap between the ideal e g independence and the real e g needing assistance of growing older and the changes the author **Faces of Aging** Yoshiko Matsumoto, 2011-03-17 The chapters in this volume put a observed over thirty years of research human face on aging issues and consider multiple dimensions of the aging experience with a focus on Japan Medical Materialities Aaron Parkhurst, Timothy Carroll, 2019-01-14 Medical Materialities investigates possible points of cross fertilisation between medical anthropology and material culture studies and considers the successes and limitations of both sub disciplines as they attempt to understand places practices methods and cultures of healing The editors present and expand upon a definition of medical materiality namely the social impact of the agency of often mundane at times non clinical

materials within contexts of health and illness as caused by the properties and affordances of this material The chapters address material culture in various clinical and biomedical contexts and in discussions that link the body and healing The diverse ethnographic case studies provide valuable insight into the way cultures of medicine are understood and practised

The Cultural Context of Aging Jay Sokolovsky, 2020-06-09 From the laughing clubs of India and robotic granny minders of Japan to the Flexsecurity system of Denmark and the elderscapes of Florida experts in this collection bring readers cutting edge and future focused approaches to our aging population worldwide In this fourth edition of an award winning text on the consequences of global aging a team of expert anthropologists and other social scientists presents the issues and possible solutions as our population over age 60 rises to double that of the year 2000 Chapters describe how the consequences of global aging will influence life in the 21st century in relation to biological limits on the human life span cultural construction of the life cycle generational exchange and kinship makeup of households and community and attitudes toward disability and death This completely revised edition includes 20 new chapters covering China Japan Denmark India West and East Africa Indonesia Mexico Peru indigenous Amazonia rural Italy and the ethnic landscape of the United States A popular feature is an integrated set of web book chapters listed in the contents discussed in chapter introductions and available on the book s web The Demographic Challenge: A Handbook about Japan Florian Coulmas, Harald Conrad, Annette site Schad-Seifert, Gabriele Vogt, 2008-03-30 This Handbook explores the challenges demographic change poses to today s Japan The first part provides the fundamental data involved and the subsequent two parts address the social and cultural aspects of Japan's demographic change Parts four and five are dedicated to the political economic and social security aspects of demographic change The Handbook brings together a group of international scholars of various disciplinary backgrounds to take issue with the world's fastest demographic transition Topics include the dynamics of gender roles images of age policy formation labour market structures pension system living arrangements ethical values and many more Against the background of Japan's demographic change the latest developments in these fields are being introduced and whenever appropriate set into a context of historical and or international comparison This Handbook is the first comprehensive publication in English on Japan's demographic change Contributors include Makoto Atoh Hans Dieter Ischleger Ryuichi Kaneko Ralph L tzeler Shigemi Kono Matthias Koch Sepp Linhart Takeo Ogawa Chikako Usui Leng Leng Thang Susan Orpett Long Sawako Shirahase Toshiko Himeoka James Raymo Miho Iwasawa Akiko S Oishi Stephen Murphy Shigematsu David Blake Willis Susanne Formanek Mayumi Sekizawa Christopher S Thompson John W Traphagan Kenji Ishii Craig Martin Peter Backhaus Fumio Inoue Lisette Gebhardt Nobuko Shiraishi Sumiko Iwao Roger Goodman Takanori Shintani Fumihiko Satofuka Carolin Funck John Clammer Wolfram Manzenreiter Leonard Schoppa John C Campbell Paul Talcott David Potter Robert Pekkanen Yutaka Tsujinaka Akihiro Ogawa Susanne Kreitz Sandberg Liv Coleman Glenda S Roberts Thomas Feldhoff Patricia Maclachlan Naohiro Ogawa Akihiro Kawase Seiritsu Ogura Volker Elis Charles Yuji Horioka Fumio Ohtake Hisashi

Fukawa Naohiro Yashiro Hendrik Meyer Ohle Karen A Shire Harald Conrad Hidehiko Sekizawa Andreas Moerke Ito Peng Naoki Ikegami Makoto Arai Tetsuo Fukawa Takashi Oshio Noriyuki Takayama and Tomoyuki Kubo A Companion to the Anthropology of Death Antonius C. G. M. Robben, 2018-04-03 A thought provoking examination of death dying and the afterlife Prominent scholars present their most recent work about mortuary rituals grief and mourning genocide cyclical processes of life and death biomedical developments and the materiality of human corpses in this unique and illuminating book Interrogating our most common practices surrounding death the authors ask such questions as How does the state wrest away control over the dead from bereaved relatives Why do many mourners refuse to cut their emotional ties to the dead and nurture lasting bonds Is death a final condition or can human remains acquire agency. The book is a refreshing reassessment of these issues and practices a source of theoretical inspiration in the study of death With contributions written by an international team of experts in their fields A Companion to the Anthropology of Death is presented in six parts and covers such subjects as Governing the Dead in Guatemala After Death Communications ADCs in North America Cryonic Suspension in the Secular Age Blood and Organ Donation in China The Fragility of Biomedicine and more A Companion to the Anthropology of Death is a comprehensive and accessible volume and an ideal resource for senior undergraduate and graduate students in courses such as Anthropology of Death Medical Anthropology Anthropology of Violence Anthropology of the Body and Political Anthropology Written by leading international scholars in their fields A comprehensive survey of the most recent empirical research in the anthropology of death A fundamental critique of the early 20th century founding fathers of the anthropology of death Cross cultural texts from tribal and industrial societies. The collection is of interest to anyone concerned with the consequences of the state and massive violence on life and death Biolust, Brain Death. and the Battle Over Organ Transplants William R. LaFleur, 2022-11-03 William LaFleur 1936 2010 an eminent scholar of Japanese studies left behind a substantial number of influential publications as well as several unpublished works The most significant of these examines debates concerning the practice of organ transplantation in Japan and the United States and is published here for the first time This provocative book challenges the North American medical and bioethical consensus that considers the transplantation of organs from brain dead donors as an unalloyed good It joins a growing chorus of voices that question the assumption that brain death can be equated facilely with death It provides a deep investigation of debates in Japan introducing numerous Japanese bioethicists whose work has never been treated in English It also provides a history of similar debates in the United States problematizing the commonly held view that the American public was quick and eager to accept the redefinition of death A work of intellectual and social history this book also directly engages with questions that grow ever more relevant as the technologies we develop to extend life continue to advance While the benefits of these technologies are obvious their costs are often more difficult to articulate Calling attention to the risks associated with our current biotech trajectory LaFleur stakes out a highly original position that does not fall neatly onto either side of

contemporary US ideological divides Global Healing Karen Laura Thornber,2020-03-02 Read an interview with Karen Thornber In Global Healing Literature Advocacy Care Karen Laura Thornber analyzes how narratives from diverse communities globally engage with a broad variety of diseases and other serious health conditions and advocate for empathic compassionate and respectful care that facilitates healing and enables wellbeing The three parts of this book discuss writings from Africa the Americas Asia Europe the Middle East and Oceania that implore societies to shatter the devastating social stigmas which prevent billions from accessing effective care to increase the availability of quality person focused healthcare and to prioritize partnerships that facilitate healing and enable wellbeing for both patients and loved ones Thornber's Global Healing remaps the contours of comparative literature world literature the medical humanities and the health humanities Watch a video interview with Thornber by the Mahindra Humanities Center part of their conversations on Covid 19 Read an interview with Thornber on Brill's Humanities Matter blog

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## Final Days Japanese Culture And Choice At The End Of Life Introduction

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