

創造 JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY CREATION MYTH 創造



The Primordial Beginnings

In the Beginning there was the primordial **oil**, the primitive substance that is the material that builds existence. Within this **oil** came the sounds of particles rubbing together:

The lightest particles rose to form the **sky**

The light particles settled below to form the **clouds**

More particles settled just below the clouds to form **Takamagahara** the “Higher Plain of Heaven”.

The remaining particles that did not rise, formed a huge mass, dense and dark, to be called **Earth**.

Appearing spontaneously in **Takamagahara** and rising from the primordial oil came the **Zōkasanshin**, the gods of creation.

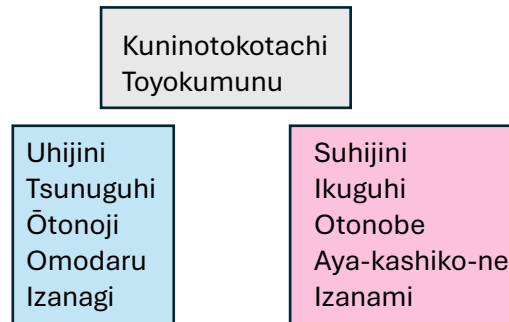
After a time, two more gods arose from the oil, completing the **Kotoamatsukami** – the early gods who were born in **Takamagahara** and without procreation.

Soon after the creation of the sky, the clouds and heaven the **Kotoamatsukami** go into hiding and are never seen, heard, or mentioned ever again.

Age of the Gods (神代, *Kami-yo/Jindai*)

Next the **Kamiyonanayo** (The Seven Generations of Gods who appear after the **Kotoamatsukami**) appear.

The first two generations of these remaining creator gods are born as **Hitorigami** – born without a partner



Izanagi and Izanami stand on **Ame-no-Ukhashi** and Izanagi, under command from the upper gods, uses the **Ame-no-Nuboko** to stir the mass of particles in the primordial oil creating the first of great Japanese islands. Soon after they would create the remaining eight.

Next Izanagi and Izanami would decide to start populating these islands with their godly offspring the **Kami**.

Because Izanami spoke first, before her husband, their first child was born without limbs or bones as punishment. Soon after the godly couple would place this child on a raft and send him to the sea.

The couple would try again, with only Izanagi now speaking. Numerous Kami were born during this time.

Humanity is believed to have appeared/created during this period. There is no mention of humanity's creation in either the Kojiki or Nihon Shoki.

Death of Izanami and the Birth of the Sun, The Moon and The Storm

Eventually, Izanami would give birth to the fire god **Kagu-tsuchi** who would burn his mother during birth which would eventually result in her death.

Izangi would kill the child which resulted in more kami springing from his blood and corpse.

Izangi then journeys to **Yomi** to find his wife. When he finds her, he ignores her request to not look at her until they reach the surface. He is horrified to see that she is a rotting corpse, and many kami had arisen from her various body parts. Izangi flees to the surface leaving Izanami behind.

***While in the land of the dead, Izanami makes the first actual mention of humanity.**

After returning to the surface, Izangi would perform a purification ritual that would lead to the creation of the Sun **Amaterasu** was born from his eye. The Moon and the storm god **Susanoo** were born while he washed his face.

The Hyuga and the Establishment of the Imperial Line

Later, **Amaterasu's** grandson, **Ninigi**, would descend from the Heavens and begin the **Hyuga** that would culminate with the birth of **Emperor Jimmu** thus establishing a line of divinely descended rulers for the people of Japan.

And with that concluded the early mythological origin of Japan.

終わり