



Classical Japanese Reader and Essential Dictionary

By Haruo Shirane



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In 2005, the celebrated scholar of Japanese literature Haruo Shirane published *Classical Japanese: A Grammar*. Now, with *Classical Japanese Reader and Essential Dictionary*, he completes his two-volume textbook for learning classical, or literary, Japanese—the primary written language in Japan from the seventh to the mid-twentieth century. The text contains carefully selected readings that address a wide array of grammatical concerns and that steadily progress from easy to difficult. The selections encompass a wide range of historical periods and styles, including essays, fiction, and poetry from such noted works as *The Tale of Genji*, *The Tales of Ise*, *The Pillow Book*, *The Tales of the Heike*, and *Essays in Idleness*, and such authors as Ihara Saikaku, Matsuo Basho, Ueda Akinari, Motoori Norinaga, and Fukuzawa Yukichi. Each reading is accompanied by a short English introduction, a vocabulary list, and extensive grammatical notes, and ends with a comprehensive grammatical annotation.

The classical Japanese-English dictionary composes the last third of the book and features approximately 2,500 key words, highlighting those used most frequently. The first of its kind, this volume is a vital tool for students, scholars, and translators of classical Japanese.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Haruo Shirane is Shincho Professor of Japanese Literature and Culture at Columbia University. His many books include *Early Modern Japanese Literature: An Anthology, 1600-1900*; *Traces of Dreams: Landscape, Cultural Memory, and the Poetry of Basho*; and *The Bridge of Dreams: A Poetics of The Tale of Genji*.

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