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Liquid Life

Abortion and Buddhism in Japan William R. LaFleur

Why would a country strongly influenced by Buddhism's reverence for life allow legalized, widely used abortion? In this provocative investigation, William LaFleur examines abortion as a window on the culture and ethics of Japan. At the same time he explores how the Japanese resolve their conflicting emotions privately and avoid the pro-life/pro-choice politics that sharply divide Americans.

The author explains how reproduction and religion became contested in nineteenth-century Japan, when highly politicized religious movements condemned abortion and urged women to have as many children as possible. Tracing the troubled history behind the eventual consensus that has allowed legalized abortion since 1948, he describes the emergence of a society that values the family in rhetoric and in practice.

"One can learn a great deal about Japanese Buddhism, thought, and psychology from this book, as well as gain insight into the intellectual issues of the abortion debate."—Patricia G. Steinhoff

"The author writes in a style accessible to any reader interested in Japanese religion and thought, abortion, and ethics."—Thomas P. Kasulis Cloth: \$24.95 ISBN 0-691-07405-4

Six Circles, One Dewdrop

The Religio-Aesthetic World of Komparu Zenchiku *Arthur H. Thornhill III*

Arthur Thornhill presents the first major study in English of the dramaturgical treatises of Komparu Zenchiku (1405-1468?), son-in-law and pupil of the illustrious Zeaml and a pivotal figure in the history of Japanese noh drama.

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