



## Songs of the Gods: The Ainu Legends of Chiri Yukie (Paperback)

By Benjamin Peterson

BJS Books, United Kingdom, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 148 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Among the vanishing cultures of the world, the Ainu of north-east Asia stand out for the startling richness of their oral literature. These thirteen beautiful Ainu chants were collected by Chiri Yukie in 1922 -- the first Ainu literature to be written down by an Ainu. This book presents new English translations of Chiri's remarkable work. Originally written in yukar form, a type of chant used by female storytellers among the Ainu villages of Hokkaido, these stories tell of the relationship between mankind and the world of spirits. Each yukar is narrated by a spirit -- fox, whale, frog, or even shellfish. Most important is the owl god, Kotankor Kamui, whose two long songs describe the covenant between humans and the spirits who provide them with food. Other tales focus on the balance of nature, on the respect due between animal spirits and people, and on the strength of Okikirmui, the human hero. The Ainu oral tradition was in danger of dying in the early 20th century, when the teenaged Chiri Yukie resolved to begin writing...



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