

Transforming Fortunetelling into Religion

—An Analysis of Books on Fortunetelling by *Kazuko Hosogi*—

ABSTRACT

Fortunetelling does not necessarily make people demand and accept as truth in present Japanese society. Fortunetelling is not a form of institutional knowledge. In order to convince people of their fortunetelling (knowledge) and to ready to accept it, fortunetellers need to legitimate their works. Fortunetellers tend to incorporate knowledges which people accept as truth to legitimate their fortunetelling. One such type of knowledge is religion. Thus, the purpose of this paper is to show that fortuneteller—*Kazuko Hosogi* uses religion to legitimate her fortunetelling, analyzing *Hosogi's* fortunetelling books.

Kazuko Hosogi is one of the famous fortunetellers in present Japanese society. *Hosogi* has written many books on fortunetelling, and they are widely read. Fortunetelling for *Hosogi* was a kind of astrology at first. But *Hosogi's* fortunetelling has transformed into religion. That is, in order to legitimate her fortunetelling and give it plausibility, *Hosogi* has incorporated religion—especially ancestor worship in her fortunetelling.

Key Words: Fortunetelling, Religion (Ancestor Worship), Legitimation