

## Japan's Defeat and the Millennium: Thought and Behavior of the Jiu Sect(2)

### ABSTRACT

Following the previous article in which the first and second stages of the Jiu movement were analyzed, this article deals with the third stage (after the Kanazawa incident).

After the Kanazawa incident, the Jiu group was stigmatized as “Jakyō” (evil cult) and persecuted by the police, mass media and society. In this difficult situation, the shamans and some central members of the Jiu began to confess that they were the leaders of the devil organization and had disturbed the millenarian movement of Jiu. The Jiu group accepted these confessions and tried to reconstruct their millenarian idea and to reorientate their movement.

In this article I consider the reason why they had confessed to be devils and point out the three related factors. The first is the strong pressure in the mind of members to keep their mind perfectly pure and to become sensitive to selfish concerns of their own. The second factor is the unique system of decision making in the Jiu group. Not the will of the messianic leader (“Jikōson”) but the message of the gods (“Gosinji”) which could be transmitted through the shamans (“Miko”) substantially decided the direction of the movement. So the shamans were urged to feel guilty about the failure of the movement. The third factor is the spiritual excitement in the Jiu group after the Kanazawa incident. The possession of the members by devil spirits occurred frequently there.

By accepting these confessions, the Jiu group tended to think of the world more dualistically and to strengthen the activity to control the evil power. As a result, the Jiu group changed their movement gradually in a more introspective direction.

**key words:** religious movement, millennialism, religion and social control