

---

## Abstract

### The Relationship between Kiyoshi Miki's Early-Era Reading of Pascal and His Late-Era Reading of Shinran

YAMANAKA Miki

This article compares *Study of the Human Being in Pascal* (1926), the debut monograph of Kiyoshi Miki (1897–1945), with Miki's posthumous manuscript *Shinran*, focusing on the concept of making a wager (as in Pascal's wager, for example). Scholars have noted that the ideas of Shinran (1173–1263) include elements resembling Pascal's wager. Miki himself, when analyzing Pascalian thought, highlighted the wager as a key motivator for adopting a religious belief.

Pascal's doctrine of the three orders was compared with Shinran's doctrine of "conversion through three of Amida's sacred vows" (*sangan-tennyū*). In Miki's reading of Pascal's doctrine of the three orders, a wager-based leap enables a transition from the order of mind (or intellect) to the order of charity (or faith). In his reading of Shinran's conversion by three of the sacred vows, Miki recognized a structure in which a wager-based leap is made to go from the 20th vow to the 18th vow.

In *Notes on Human Life* (1941), Miki wrote, in a section titled "On skepticism," that skepticism aids adherents of a religion in guiding others, and that a skeptical adherent is also a thinker. Thus, Miki may have approached Shinran's thought with the notion that it contained a seemingly contradictory mixture of faith and skepticism. If so, it would explain why his *Shinran* manuscript depicts the human person making a wager, as in his reading of Pascal.