
Abstract**Kiyoshi Miki and Yasukuni Shrine:
A Study on “Death and the Humanities”****YAMANAKA Miki**

Kiyoshi Miki (1897–1945), a famous Japanese philosopher, wrote many articles and books on philosophy. Miki also wrote extensively on social issues. During World War II, Miki gave a message to students being mobilized for the war entitled “About Death and the Humanities.” It consisted of three parts: tradition, Yasukuni Shrine, and the humanities. Those analyzing this message have been inclined to think too much about its World War II setting and have failed to give adequate consideration to its actual content. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to examine Miki’s intention for his essay based on the text. A careful reading of the text shows that Miki’s essay was built on his own personal experience and philosophy and not limited to or by the wartime situation. This essay can indeed be read as expressing Miki’s own faith experience, attitude as a philosopher, and hope for the future of the students being mobilized for war rather than as Miki’s active participation in and support of the war effort through essay and speech.