Contents

	List of Illustrations	ix
	Preface	xi
	A Note to the Reader	xv
	Part One: Introduction	
1.	Theoretical Setting	3
	The Two Transitional Periods in Japanese History: A Sketch	12
	Limitations and Organization of the Book	17
2.	The Monkey as Metaphor for the Japanese	20
	Why the Monkey?	20
	The Monkey as Metaphor for Humans	22
	The Line between Humans and Monkeys	32
	The Monkey as an Anomalous Symbol and the Hierarchy of Meaning	34
	Part Two: Meanings through History	
3.	The Monkey in Japanese Culture: Historical Transformations of Its Meaning	41
	The Monkey as Mediator in Early and Transitional Periods	42
	Early and Transitional Periods: A Summary	55
	The Monkey as Scapegoat and Trickster in Later History	59
	Contemporary Developments	72
	1 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

CONTENTS

4.	The Special Status People in Japanese Society:			
	Historical Transformations of Their Meaning	75		
	Ancient Period (300 B.CTwelfth Century)	77		
	Medieval Period (Twelfth-Sixteenth Centuries)	81		
	Early Modern Period (1603–1868)	93		
	Modern Period (1868–Present)	97		
	Summary and Interpretation	99		
5.	The Monkey Performance: Historical			
	Transformations of Its Meaning	101		
	Ancient and Medieval Periods (300 B.C.–Sixteenth Century)	103		
	Early Modern Period (16031868)	113		
	Modern Period (1868–Present)	118		
	Summary	126		
6.	The Monkey and the Special Status People in the			
	Reflexive Structure of the Japanese	128		
	Dualistic Cosmology	130		
	Deities as Mirrors of Humans	133		
	Purity and Impurity in the Japanese Ethos	137		
	The Sacred, the Secular, and the Impure	140		
	Cosmological Principles and Classification of People	144		
	Mediators and Scapegoats as Reflexive Agents	149		
	Clowns as Reflexive Agents	151		
	Mediator, Scapegoat, and Clown in a Dualistic Universe: Theoretical Considerations	154		
	Part Three: Basic Structure, Processual- Contextual Structure, and Multiple			
	Structures of Meaning			
7.	The Monkey Performance of the Late			
	Medieval Period	163		
	Basic Structure of Meaning: Monkey Performance as			
	Stable Ritual	164		

CONTENTS

	Processual and Contextual Structures of Meaning: Monkey	168
	Performance as Street Entertainment	
	Framing of the Monkey Performance	179
8.	The Monkey Performance in Contemporary Japan	183
	Monkey Performance at a Festival in 1980	183
	Monkey Performance at a Park in Tokyo in 1984: Monkey	
	as Clown	186
	Discussion	204
	D	
	Part Four: From the Mediating Monkey to the	
ŀ	Reflexive Monkey: Historical Transformatio	ONS
	and Ritual Structure	
9.	Structures of Meaning in History, Myth,	
	and Ritual	209
	Monkey Performance: Text, Context, and Performance	209
	Structural Regularities in Transformation	217
	Historical Regularities	221
	History, Myth, and Ritual	235
	Musings on the Reflexive Monkey	238
	References	241
	Index	261