

Iomante

The Sending Off Ceremony



Who are the Ainu?

- Indigenous people of Japan
- Hunter-gatherer lifestyle
- Live in Hokkaido, Sakhalin, and Kuril Islands



Iomante

- Literally means “to send something/someone off”
- If bear is found on hunt, bring back to village
- Send bear off to return to the “spirit world”



Iomante Today

- Outlawed in 1955, but prohibition was removed in 2007
- Still not performed among modern Ainu



END

