



Inari is the Japanese Shinto spirit of rice. Inari often roams through rice fields, sometimes in the form of a fox, his familiar animal. This connection between the rice spirit and foxes is said to come from the way foxes often prey on birds and vermin who try feeding on the rice crops. Inari is usually shown in the company of a fox or two. He carries a sack which contains an inexhaustible supply of rice. In ancient times, every Japanese home contained a shrine to Inari.