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NEW NOVEL PILGRIMAGE BY DANIEL O'BRIEN OFFERS A JOURNEY THROUGH JAPAN RICH IN CULTURE, MYSTERY, AND INNER DISCOVERY

June 9, 2025, Burnsville, MN – Kirk House Publishers is proud to announce the release of *Pilgrimage*, the highly anticipated follow-up to Japanese *Ghost in America*, by Minnesota author and educator Daniel O'Brien.

O'Brien, who holds a degree in Advanced Japanese Studies and teaches Eastern Studies and Humane Letters at Eagle Ridge Academy High School, brings a unique cultural depth to his fiction. Blending history, Japanese tradition, spiritual themes, and modern-day storytelling, *Pilgrimage* continues the journey of Jimmy Swenson—a Minnesota teacher drawn back to Japan in search of purpose and healing.

Still haunted by the departure of Saori, the ghost from *Japanese Ghost in America*, Jimmy sets off on the revered Shikoku pilgrimage. Along the way, he confronts spiritual challenges, builds unexpected friendships, and finds himself caught in the path of a secretive group threatening to disrupt the sacred journey. With danger looming and personal growth on the line, Jimmy must lean into the Buddhist ideals of compassion and courage.

"*Pilgrimage* is not just a story about hiking a famous route—it's a soulful exploration of identity and connection, wrapped in suspense and rich with Japanese cultural insight," says Richard Sadowsky, Japanese-English translator and longtime friend of the author. "The trails and meditation sessions we shared became the heart of this story, and I never expected what Daniel would do with them."

Praised by readers of all backgrounds—from high school counselors to literature teachers—*Pilgrimage* continues O'Brien's legacy of writing thoughtful, engaging, and unexpectedly thrilling fiction that educates while it entertains.

Available now in paperback, hardcover, and eBook formats.

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- Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-959681-83-0
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