

Agata-no-uji 縣氏.³ She was over twenty but unmarried, and she became pregnant without any sexual intercourse. At the end of the second month in the spring of the tenth year of the boar, the first year of the Enryaku era, in the reign of Emperor Yamabe,⁴ she gave birth to two stones after a three-year pregnancy. They measured five inches in diameter. One was blue and white mixed together, while the other was pure blue. They grew year after year.⁵

In Atsumi 淳見 district,⁶ next to Katakata district, there was a great kami, whose name was Inaba 伊奈婆.⁷ The deity took possession of a diviner⁸ and spoke through him, saying, "The two stones which were born are my own children." Therefore, they were enshrined at the girl's residence in a sacred place surrounded with a hedge.⁹

We have never heard a story like this from ancient times until today. This is also a miraculous event in our country.

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On a Fisherman Netting Fish Who Was Almost Drowned in the Sea but Saved Owing to His Devotion to Bodhisattva Myōken¹

Kurchara no imiki Nanimomaro 吳原忌寸名妹丸² was of the village of Hata, Takechi district, Yamato province 大和國高市郡波多里.³ From his childhood he used to make nets and catch fish. On the evening of the nineteenth day of the eighth month, in the autumn of the first year of the rat, the second year of the Enryaku era,⁴ he went out

3. The *Sandai jitsuroku* 三代實錄 gives the same name as a local gentry family.

4. 782, in the reign of Emperor Kanmu.

5. See Chap. II(2)b.

6. Present Inaba-gun, Gifu-ken 岐阜縣稻葉郡.

7. Inaba Shrine 稻葉神社 is located in this district.

8. 卜者 *kamnagi*.

9. 忌籬 *imigaki*; or *igaki*, the hedge which marks the holy precincts of a shrine.

1. Similar to III.35.

2. Unknown. Since the name *imiki* was often conferred on immigrant families, the Kurehara family may have immigrated from China.

3. Present Hata, Takechi-mura, Takechi-gun 高市郡高市村畑.

4. Enryaku 2 is the tenth year of the boar 癸亥, and Enryaku 3 the first year of the rat 甲子 (784).

upon the sea between Iwataki Island 伊波多岐嶋⁵ in Ama district in Kii province 紀伊國海部郡 and Awaji province 淡路國⁶ to cast a net and catch fish. There were nine fishermen in three boats. All at once a gale came up, destroying the three boats and drowning all the men except him.

Floating on the water, Nanimomaro devoted his heart to Bodhisattva Myōken,⁷ making a vow and saying, "If you save my life, I will make a statue of Myōken as tall as I am." He floated on the sea and battled the waves, exhausting himself and nearly losing consciousness, being more asleep than awake. He awoke on a bright moonlit night to discover himself lying on the grass on the beach of Kata 蚊田浦濱,⁸ Ama district, Kii province. Having been saved, he took his own measurements and made a statue as tall as himself.

Ah, how miraculous! When the gale destroyed the boats and waves drowned his friends, he was the only one that survived. Therefore, he made a statue as tall as he was. Indeed, we learn that he was saved by the great help of Myōken and the power of his devotion.

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On the Immediate Penalty of Violent Death for Persecuting a Humble, Begging Novice¹

Ki no atae Yoshitari 紀直吉足² was popularly called Lord Hashi no iegimi 橋家長³ in the village of Wake, Hidaka district, Kii province 紀伊國日高郡別里.⁴ He was innately evil natured and did not believe in the law of karmic causation. In the fifth month in the summer of the second year of the ox, the fourth year of the Enryaku era,⁵ a provincial official who was making the rounds of the district to give out

5. It may be Tomogashima 友島 off the coast of Kada, Kaisō-gun, Wakayama-ken 和歌山縣海草郡加太.

6. Present Awajishima, Hyōgo-ken 兵庫縣淡路島.

7. See Chap. II(3)b, n. 133.

8. See n. 5, above.

1. Similar to I.29; II.1, 35; III.14, 15; etc.

2. The *Shinsen shōjiroku* lists the Kii family in Kinai as descended from kami.

3. See I.10, n. 3.

4. Present Hidaka-gun, Wakayama-ken.

5. 785, in the reign of Emperor Kanmu.