

# Kijimun's Monologue No.5

*Ajibaka, Tōfu kuē māchi, Senbaru baba, Kajuen ato*

*Haisai!* Kijimun *yaibīn*. I'm going to show you some historical sites near Faculty of Agriculture and regarding agricultural rituals locating in *Ryūdai* campus.

## **Ajibaka (Tomb of a territorial lord in premodern Okinawa)**

In the grounds of Faculty of Agriculture, there is *Ishigusuku* (a cultural property designated by Nishihara town). And there we can see old tombs of Tanabaru village. The picture at right is "*Sendai Ufudunchi Monchū Ajibaka*." It is said that there is also *Tsuhtakabaka*, but we could not confirm that at this time.



*Ajibaka*

## **Tōfu kuē māchi (Pine tree which eats Tōfu)**

In those days, there were two big pine trees, side by side, around whose trunks two adults could barely put their arms. At the feet of the trees, there was an incense burner, and villagers worshiped that place. It is said that, at the time of *Yamaugwan* (a religious service) in January 2<sup>nd</sup>, when they offered *Tōfu* in front of this place of worship, the *Tōfu* was disappeared before they knew. For that reason, people said it was the pine trees which had eaten the *Tōfu*; then they called the trees as "*Tōfu kuē māchi* (*māchi* means pine tree in Okinawan dialect)."

Though an administrator of the official mountain of Ryukyu *Ōfu* had protected these trees for a long time, it was cut down without any permission in around 1933. After the felling, it became difficult to find the place of worship as these trees alone were the guides.



*Senbaru baba*

## **Senbaru baba (Riding ground at Senbaru)**

*Senbaru baba* was a place for horse race as an annual event. About 200 m of the circular road from the North Gate corresponds that riding ground.

The Ryukyuan horse race is different from the ordinary race if horse gallops and its all four legs leave the ground, the horse is put out of the race. It was very popular in every village as an event of the festive occasion. Villagers came to see in their best attires and enjoyed the race while eating and drinking.

## **Kajuen ato (Site of an Orchard)**

Before the University of the Ryukyus was established in Senbaru, there was an orchard near *Senbaru baba*. In around 1960, Mr. Chen from Taiwan (his first name is unknown) reclaimed about 66000 m<sup>2</sup> of village-owned land at the southern part of *Senbaru baba*, and he planted orchard trees like *Kishū mikan*, *Ponkan*, or Guava.

I couldn't show you every interesting spot in *Ryūdai* yet, let's wait and see next time!



*Kajuen ato*

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