



Column: Kijimun's Monologue No.4

A dragon in Kuninda(Kume village)

Keywords: *Irō setsuden*, Dragon, *Feng shui*

Haisai&haitai, Kijimun yaib ī n! In this month, I will introduce a legend of a frightening dragon in *Irō setsuden*!

Let's go to the Izumisaki Intersection!

Do you know between Kume Street and Nishi shōbō Street in Naha city, there is a little garden imitated a dragon face? Around this area, there was a village called "*Kuninda*" and the villagers took charge of the diplomacy towards China in the period of Ryukyu kingdom. *Kuninda* had a close relation to a dragon.



A dragon in *Kuninda*

In *Irō setsuden*, there is a legend about a dragon in *Kuninda* as follows:

"There is a huge dragon in the land of *Kuninda*. Its head is the land in front of *Ufujō* (near the Izumisaki Intersection present-day) at the southern tip of *Kuninda*, its body is the main street of the village (Kume Street) and the big stone at Nakashima(near a bus terminal of Naha present-day) is the precious orb of dragon. As the dragon is a divine creature, it is prohibited to go in and out *Ufujō* with holding a corpse. When the taboo is broken, the dragon will have a violent temper and will cause a storm. Then, it will head for disaster of the nation."

In *Kuninda*, the villagers kept the flow of holy energy with comparing the whole village to a dragon. According to this article of *Irō setsuden*, there was a person who did not believe the legend and he/she went in and out *Ufujō* bringing a corpse. Because of breaking the taboo, there was a succession of disasters, such as rainstorms or famines.

The relationship between *Kuninda* and a dragon: *Feng shui*

This legend is related to *Feng shui*. *Feng shui* is one of philosophies coming from China, it is a geomancy being practiced to avoid misfortune and to bring happiness. Among *Kunindanchu* (people of *Kuninda*), there were some who had learned *Feng shui* in Fujian, and played an important role as a *Feng shui* master. They gave instructions to keep the flow of holy energy in practicing *Feng shui*, for example, the instructions for tree planting or for moving a tomb. *Kume-mura Kamiyama Satonushi Pēchin nikamura fūsui gokenbun nikki* from Shimabukuro Genshichi collection is the account of *Feng shui* inspection practiced by *Feng shui* master of *Kuninda*. After he had examined *Feng shui* of two villages of Haneji *Magiri*, Makiya and Inamine, he gave them concrete instruction to where they had to move their tombs, to where they had to plant trees or how to leash domestic animals.



Shimabukuro Genshichi collection. No.2
from Ryukyu/Okinawa Special Collection Digital Archive

If you would like to know more about *Feng shui*, please check reference documents of the library!