



Column : Kijimun's Monologue No.7

The name is Nakanishi.

Keyword : Enden Katabaru, Shiwatarihashi

Haisai, Kijimun yaibin!

I am gonna introduce a *Yōkai* whose name is "Nakanishi", it is said that it appears when someone calls its name.

There are some information about "Nakanishi" as below.

Nakanishi: It usually points a family name of a person. It is said that if someone calls the name of *Yōkai*, *Nakanishi* aloud, (You need to say "Nakanishi hēi!") at the Shiwatarihashi of Enden Katabaru in the evening, it will appear before the person who called its name. (Kinjō Chōei, "Ryukyū Yōkai henge shumoku (1)", *Kyōdo Kenkyū* 5(2), 1931)

What is Enden Katabaru?

It is a salt farm spread out among Wakasa, Tomari and Kumoji. The map on the right shows the town of Naha around 1885, in this map, these area was noted as "Shiohama". (*Enden* means a salt farm, and *Shio/En* means salt.)

It is said that the salt manufacturing industry in Katabaru was started by Shiohama Shikō in 1694, and the industry was in full flower in Meiji and Taishō period. Besides the salt manufacturing, Katabaru was used as a recreation ground in the modern times.

Katabaru was filled in during and after the battle of Okinawa, and now we can see the monument of "Tomari Enden no ato hi" at a corner of the site.



Sakamaki/Hawley Collection HW477 Okinawaken kannai zenzu

(Made by Kume Chōjun, 1885)

Digital Archive Ryukyū/Okinawa Special Collection



Shiwatarihashi (Picture taken by the writer of this column in September 19th, 2015)

Shiwatarihashi (Shiowatari bridge)

Katabaru was much-traveled area because it was a shortcut from Tomari to Wakasa/Naha. The Shiwatarihashi where "Nakanishi" appears was a about 13-meter-long wooden bridge built in 1909. (Higashionna Kanjun, *Nantō Fūdoki*, P258.) The bridge is next to Richmond Hotel at Maejima, Naha city on the Route 58. (The current bridge is relocated south of its original place.)

Will it appear, Nakanishi?! *

Do you think *Nakanishi* will appear in our time too? I have shouted "Nakanishi hēi!" at the Shiwatarihashi, I saw a lot of people went away from me, but no one came towards me... If you could see it, be sure to let me know that! Oh, I forgot to tell you, sometimes *Nakanishi* will spirit away human beings, so please be aware when you try to see him!