

Column : Kijimun's Monologue No.10

Legends of Titans in Okinawa

Keyword : Titans, Āmanchu, Yatou, San'ai Isoba, Ālpan'na



Haisai, Kijimun Yaibin! Wish you a happy new year!

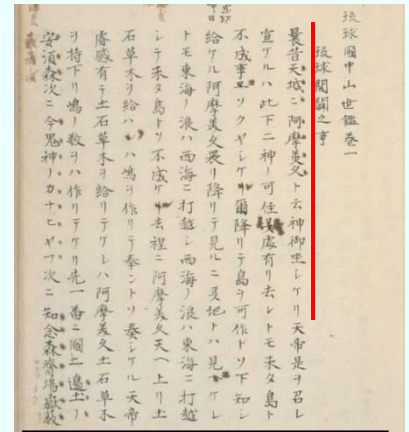
Well, I am going to introduce legends of Titans in Okinawa in this month.

● **at Haneji, Nago city:** "Long long ago, people were annoyed at low sky. A titan whose name was Amamikiyo came and pushed up the sky planting his/her feet firmly on stones in Makiya Ōkawa river and Haneji Ōkawa river. At that time, the titan left his/her footprint at Toushi of Haneji Ōkawa river, and we could see the footprint."

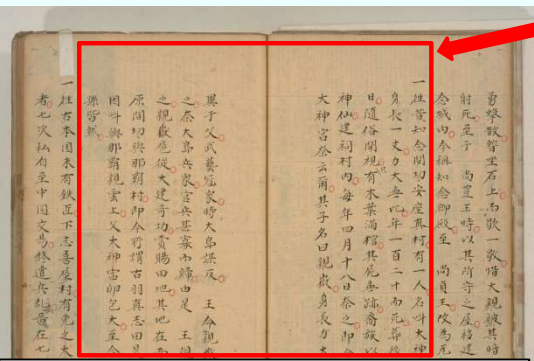
● **at Agena, Uruma city:** "Long long ago, the sky and the ground were too close, people crawled on the ground. A titan whose name was Āmanchu came from somewhere and he/she pushed up the sky standing at Yūchi nu sachi of Naha. It is said that a footprint of Āmanchu is left at the remained site of Yuki no saki in Wakasa Seaside Park present-day."

● **at Sashiki Tshako, Nanjō city:** "Amanchū showed up in front of an old man of virtue, aged 130 years old. Then, Amanchū conferred a longevity on him and also, he/she gave him the seeds of five grains. (In Sashiki, a folk performing art called "Amanchu" is designated as an intangible cultural property by Nanjō city. There are two players in this performance, one rides on the other's shoulders to show its largeness, and they play the role of Amanchu together.)"

● **at Tonaki Island:** "In the past, at the place called Takatanshī, there was a big hollow stone and people believed that hollow was a footprint of Āmanchu. It is said that Āmanchu crossed Aguni Island and Tonaki Island in a stride, then he/she tried to cross Kume Island in a stride too, but he/she failed to cross a sea and died after falling into the sea."



P.16., Chūzan seikan, Iha Fuyū Collection No.23, "Ryukyū kaibyaku no koto"



P6, Irō setsuden, vol.3, Iha Fuyū Collection, No.14 (3)

● **at Chinen, Nanjō city:** "Long long ago, in Azama village of Chinen *Magiri*, there was a man whose name was Ufujichū, and who was 3 meters tall. He lived to be 120 years old. 3 days after his death, people opened his coffin according to customs, and they found many leaves there, instead of his body. People thought that he must be a God, so they set up a Hokora (small shrine) and enshrined him in it as a God."

● **at Yonaguni town:** "Around 1,500, a woman whose name was San'ai Isoba ruled Yonaguni Island. She had 4 breasts and Herculean power. Her height was 2.5 meters and her shoulder length was 1 meter."

● **at Ishigaki Island:** "In an ancient period when famine struck and an epidemic spread in the Island, a man whose name was Ālpan'na came to the Island. He was so big that his head reached to the moon. Then, he went to a castle of the goddess of the moon to ask for an elixir of life to help people in the Island. However, as he was refused to enter the castle, he run amuck at the gate, and the goddess put a curse of immobility on him. A shadow in the moon which we can see now is Ālpan'na who stands firm and cannot move anymore."

I think the Titans in Okinawa are good and kind! By the way, Titan is "Yatou" in Shuri/Naha dialect. You can listen the pronunciation of the dialect with "Data base of Ryukyuan Language" on the web site of University of the Ryukyus Library Okinawa Collection. Let's check it out!

