

Traditional technique : The story of januke debris flow

Category : Folktales/legends      Sicile : 19<sup>th</sup> century

River : Kisogawa (Kiso River), Yogawa (YoRiver)

Site : Nagiso-machi (Nagano Pref.)

The story of januke debris flow

"I heard that in 1844, in the Nakanosawa area in Shimoyama, a large number of trees were cut down by the order of Lord Owari. Consequently, a big januke (flood-induced debris flow) occurred down the hillslope and killed many workers. That's why they built a statue of the Jizo deity, praying for the repose of the souls of the deceased."

Source: Shoji Sasamoto, "Mountain Disasters in the Legend of the Shinano Region" (in Japanese),  
River Review, Spring, 1999No.105

Description:

It has been confirmed that this legend is based on facts. Legends of this kind are not always preposterous and fictional; they are often based on facts as in the case cited above. Such legends help raise public awareness of the realities of disasters. Disasters occur when least expected. The first step in preventing a disaster is to remember and convey facts to contemporaries and future generations. As communication between parents and children and between community members is becoming increasingly difficult, there is a growing need to collect disaster-related legends and take necessary safety measures according to the knowledge thus gained.

Source: Shoji Sasamoto, "Mountain Disasters in the Legend of the Shinano Region" (in Japanese),  
River Review, Spring, 1999No.105