Imokurabe Festival in Nakayama

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The main purpose of this report, which is based on video recorded data concerning Imokurabe Festival in Nakayama in Hinomachi, Gamo-gun in Shiga Prefecture and the social structure of Nakayama, is to supplement the past research reports concerning Imokurabe Festival by presenting various data acquired through the process of producing video recorded report of this event, and also to study the problems concerning the production of report in video including the relationship between the researchers and the researched.

These problems are presented in the report in correspondence with the order of each part of the video recorded report entitled “A village of Imokurabe Festival--Ethnography of Omi Nakayama--”; “Rituals of Imokurabe Festival”, “Preparations for Imokurabe Festival,” and “Surrounding conditions of Imokurabe Festival,” Special focus of this written report was on supplying additional data to supplement the Imokurabe Festival report made in 1987 by Hirobumi Tsuboi.

In “Rituals of Imokurabe Festival,” further analysis was made on various performing gestures that have not been defined in the previous report, substantial addition was made on the differences between Higashitani and Nishitani, and analysis was made for the first time on the overall structure of Imokurabe Festival.

In “Preparations for Imokurabe Festival,” preparations made for Imokurabe Festival in 1988 were fully observed and recorded.

In “Surrounding conditions of Imokurabe Festival,” observations and recording were made about the circumstances surrounding the festival including the Nogami Festivals that are celebrated in the neighboring villages, which are considered to be associated with Imokurabe Festival.

In conclusion, the following points were revealed concerning the Imokurabe Festival in Nakayama.

1. The differences and rivalry that can be observed on the day of Imokurabe Festival between the eastern and western parts of Nakayama do exist not only during the festival season but also in their ordinary life in the other seasons. The Imoku-
rabe Festival is an opportunity to regenerate those differences and rivalry between the two groups.

2. The Imokurabe Festival is locally accepted as a ceremony for foretelling the year's harvest of rice by comparing the length of Taros between the east and west of Nakayama. Therefore it should be considered an dry field farming ritual associated with a wet field farming ritual, and not as a purely dry field farming ritual.