The Dissimilating View

—Concerning the Festival of Kino Shrine—

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This paper deals with the festival of Kino Shrine located in Kino, Mihama Town, Mikata County, Fukui Prefecture. Today, Kino holds its own festival without participating in the festival of Mimi Shrine, though it is a parishioner of this shrine. This paper aims to examine its relationship with the festival of Mimi Shrine, by focusing on this example. In fact, the two festivals closely resemble each other in various aspects, which suggests a somewhat close tie between them.

I have tried, in several preceding papers, to clarify an extremely interesting cosmology seen in the festival and performing arts of Mimi Shrine. The cosmology seems to be framed with a strong interest in the encounter with something different or memory of intercultural communications. It also seems to thread through the area centering around Mimi Shrine.

This paper may be considered as the extension of those attempts to describe such a cosmology in the folk society. Kino has selected an extremely unique standpoint toward this area, and undesignedly dissimilated the festival of Mimi shrine. Therefore, in this paper, while trying to deal with the festival of Kino Shrine, from which the standpoint of Kino can be best understood, I wish to illuminate the cosmology expressed in the festival of Mimi Shrine from a slightly different angle, by paying attention to some handed-down folklore.

If we position the unique standing of Kino as a point from which to view the festival of Mimi Shrine, there becomes a different reality which shakes the very cosmology, and this cosmology presents a different reality. The village of Kino itself contains a "view which dissimulates" the festival of Mimi shrine.