Present Situation of the Go Festival

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Yukikaki Festival of Kasuga Shrine in Imoto-cho, Higashiomi City, Shiga Prefecture is thought to be closely connected to the practice of water rights because of its rituals, and its history as the so-called festival of miya-za organized by four towns that were one manor in the Middle Ages also attracts attention. Many researchers have claimed that the “Go festival” in the Omi Koto area is derived from “yugo” which is a bond based on water rights. However, they have not mentioned the present situation of the festival in the region where the water rights relationship disappeared after land readjustment.

This article investigates whether the water rights were actually matched with the rituals in the festival, and what kind of bond is in the festival after losing the framework of water due to the development of irrigation facilities. As a result of the investigation, it was found that this festival was not matched with the actual water rights, and even the narrative discourse of “water” has disappeared in the present. However, instead of the festival, the history of this region in the Middle Ages has attracted attention, and various changes have been kept incorporated in the rituals. While the present go festival has been continued and transformed in a multilayered form where the changes from the past to the present are mixed, the narrative tradition has also frequently changed its “meaning” to be necessary and precise at the time.

Key words: Go festival, miya-za, water rights, narrative discourse, tradition, History consciousness