Kabu-za Being Maintained: Over the Position of Miyashu in Takei, Sonobe-cho, Nantan City

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This article studies the structure of the organization for religious services in Takei, Sonobe-cho, Nantan City, which exists in Kuchitanba with a form of so-called kabu-za, and discusses why the organization for religious services with a form of kabu-za has been maintained until today.

In Takei, there is a role called kujunoto selected from a family called miyashu, and a role called miyashu selected from all kabu, which exist in a small district called motomake. The houses that can assume these roles have a reputation from people not only in Takei but also in neighboring villages for their venerable lineage. Miyashu to select kujunoto is supposed to be assumed by a head house of a specific kabu, and miyashu must be from a family of venerable lineage. However, there are some cases where miyashu moved from Takei due to economic circumstances, and other members of the same kabu succeeded the right of miyashu. Based on such fact, the right of miyashu in motomake and the other are given to a particular kabu, and it does not matter which house becomes miyashu.

In motomake, there is also kabu with a legend of irekabu, which means that a house from outside becomes a new member of kabu and obtains the right to become miyashu. Furthermore, it did not come to the surface in Takei, but after World War II, some kabu attempted to obtain the right to become miyashu to select kujunoto. Becoming miyashu in a local community is to gain certain prestige, but there is currently no house attempting to obtain the right of miyashu in Takei. On the contrary, some people want to escape from the burden of being miyashu, which is heavy in festivals. Such situation is a result of changes in society. In the past, gaining prestige in a closed society was important in the local community. However, many families live outside society today, and gaining prestige in the local community is not regarded to be important.

key words: kabu, miyashu, right for religious services