Dreams and Incantations
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"Kitaazumi-gun Kyodoshiko," gathering as much as 4,500 folk beliefs, is a collection of materials that pioneered the study of Japanese folk beliefs. In these materials, about 200 folk beliefs related to dreams are treated in the "oneiromancy" section. Among these folk beliefs, this article first analyzes the contents of the "omen of dream" and clarifies the general pattern of dreams as folk culture. Subsequently, it examines the contents of the "curse of dream" before and after having dreams and confirms how people treat dreams and react to them. Furthermore, it deals with three curse songs of the verse form and analyzes the contents and meanings based on nationwide examples. Finally, it exemplifies the involvement of professional magicians in circulating these curse songs and proves that the songs were performed at venues of magic rituals, before eventually spreading to common people.

Subsequently, the article deals with the incantation of "akumu tsuku somoku-ni komu messu shugyoku-wo." According to the history of Yamato, Fukushima, when you awoke from a bad dream in the morning, you might want to face north and repeat "akumujaku, soramuku, komujo." three times. This seems to have been transmitted by ear from the incantation mentioned above, which appears in the collection of incantations for the Mt. Kubote mountaineering ascetics, suggesting that the mountaineering ascetics were involved in this prayer.

The same incantation appears in "Nichureki" of the Nanboku-cho period, in which the incantations of the Yin-Yang school are described, and for the above incantation, how to attach a nightmare to a doll and let water carry it away or burn it is explained. The incantation of wishing "a nightmare attached to trees and plants" would have been chanted in the Yin-Yang rituals at the Imperial Court. "Renchusho" and "Kuchizusami" of the Heian period cite explaining a nightmare to a mulberry tree. Why would doing so result in the expulsion of a nightmare?

Among existing folk customs, Amami has kuchitave incantation wishing a good dream stay and a bad dream attached to leaves of grass. There is also an example of explaining a dream to nanten nandina and shaking it. Because the Japanese word "nanten" also means "change of bad luck," it is used for various magic rituals. In ancient times, mulberry trees banished nightmares. People might have believed that because mulberries were eaten by silkworms, nightmares attached to mulberry leaves would also be eaten by silkworms and disappear. This is the conclusion of this article.

Key words: Omen of dream, Curse of dream, Curse song, Dreams and Nandina and mulberry