



国東市指定無形民俗文化財

赤根善神祭



善神王祭り

明和年間(1764~1771)に赤根地区の人々が賀来神社から善神王を分霊したのが始まりといわれています。

善神王とは、御神体に武内宿禰を祀った善神王宮に由来すると思われます。善神王宮は当初杵原八幡宮の摂社でしたが869年に豊後の国司により賀来の地に移され賀来神社と改名されたと考えられています。

勧請された分霊は、当初は祠に祀られていた可能性もありますが、現在では「勧請善神王」と書かれた幟端を依代としています。この幟端に大松明の燈明を掲げ、神前で神楽を奉納し、さらに宮下がりして奉納相撲を行う一連の行事が赤根の善神王祭りであるという説もあります。いずれにしても五穀豊穡、家内安全、商売繁盛と人々の願いが込められた祭りです。

祭りは9月1日の「幟立て」に始まり、5日前後に行われる「大松明づくり」を経て10日の「本祭り」までの10日間です。

※1 賀来神社 大分市賀来にある神社、9月の1日~10日の間、秋季大祭(賀来の市)が行われる

※2 分霊 神社の祭神を分けて他の神社に祀ること

※3 摂社 本社に付属し本社に縁故の深い神を祀った神社の称

※4 幟端 丈が長く幅の狭い旗、祭典・儀式などに用いる神仏に供える灯火

※5 燈明 公民館から会場(神社)への道中を宮上がり、会場から公民館への道中を宮下がりとして行われるようす。

Zenjou Festival

The Akane area residents' solicitation to have the enshrined spirit of Zenjou divided and shared(2) from the Kaku Shrine(1) is believed to have taken place during the Meiwa period (1764-1771).

Zenjou is thought to have originated from Lord Takenouchi, who was enshrined and worshipped at the Zenjou Shrine. The Zenjou Shrine was at first an auxiliary shrine(3) of Yusuhara Hachiman Shrine, but in the year 869 it is thought that the former Bungo provincial governor of eastern Kyushu transferred the shrine to the area of Kaku and changed the name to Kaku Shrine.

After the spiritual division of Zenjou, the Akane area possibly first used a small shrine for worship. Nowadays long, vertical flag banners(4) with Request Zenjou written on them represent the articles to which Zenjou is enshrined. An enormous bamboo torch is set ablaze(5) and raised vertically, and ancient Shinto dancing and music are performed to pay homage to these flags that represent Zenjou. In addition, the ritualistic ascending and descending to and from the shrine(6), and the ceremonial sumo matches may also represent the offerings to Zenjou. In any case, it is a festival that encompasses people's prayers to Zenjou

for an abundant harvest, the well-being of one's family, and prosperous business.

The festival is ten days, commencing on September 1st with the displaying of the flag banners. The assembly of the large bamboo torch begins around the 5th and continues until the day of the festival on September 10th.

1. Kaku Shrine Kaku Shrine is located in Oita City and holds the Great Fall Festival from September 1st ~ September 11th.
2. Bunrei The act of dividing a sacred spirit from one shrine and worshipping it at another shrine.
3. Sessha An auxiliary shrine dedicated to a deity related to that of a main shrine.
4. Noboribata Long, narrow, vertical flag banners used in festivals and ceremonies.
5. Toumyo Light used to pay homage to deities.
6. Miyasagari The name given to the action of ascending and descending to and from the shrine before and after the ceremony.

Lord Takenouchi

With regard to ancient folklore, Lord Takenouchi served five emperors; Keiko, Seimu, Chuai, Ojin, and Nintoku. He was a cabinet minister during the Seimu reign, assisted the shrine's Empress, and aided in the battle with ancient Korea and the war with Lord Oshikuma of Japan. As depicted in Japan's Record of Ancient Matters and earliest chronicles, during the enthronement of Emperor Ojin, Lord Takenouchi was regarded as the ideal image of an ancient cabinet minister, furthering the materialization of the emperor's dynasty.

Lord Takenouchi is described as living a long life, and according to the succession of appointed nobility of the emperor's court, he served office for 244 years.

There are various folklores regarding Lord Takenouchi such as he had difficulty hearing and that he had an interest in sumo wrestling.

* There are various pronunciations of the name Lord Takenouchi (武内宿禰).

※武内宿禰の読み方は、諸説あります。

長寿の人物として知られ公卿補任によれば在官244年と記されています。

また、様々な伝承が残され耳が遠かったことや、相撲が好きであったことなどが伝えられています。



武内宿禰は日本銀行の紙幣に肖像として使用されていた

たけのうちのすくね
武内宿禰

善神王祭りの道具 Zenjou Festival Articles

御神体幟

「勸請善神王」と書かれた縦3.5m横80cmの幟旗で、御神体の善神王(武内宿禰)はこの幟旗を依代とします。

■ Enshrined Flags

The flags written with the words *Request Zenjou* are 3.5m tall and 80cm wide and are believed to enshrine the spirit of Zenjou (Lord Takenouchi).

奉納幟

「奉納善神王」「氏子繁栄・家内安全・五穀豊穰」などと記された幟旗で6本あります。祭りの間中、御神体の幟端と同じように宮上がりします。

■ Prayer Flags

There are six flags upon which various requests to Zenjou are written, such as parishioner prosperity, family safety, and abundant harvest. These flags are carried up to the shrine in the same fashion as the enshrined flags.



御神体幟と奉納幟

大松明

長さ8mあまりの松明です。編み上げた竹の竹簾で枯れた竹などを巻いてワイヤーで巻き締めます。最後に化粧蔓を巻き化粧竹を添えます。この作業は9月5日に近い休日に行われます。



直立した大松明

■ The Grand Torch

This large bamboo torch is over 8m long. Dried branches and bamboo are gathered, rolled together, and fastened with wire. Finally, vines and bamboo are aesthetically wrapped and attached to the exterior. This work is performed on the holiday near September 5th.

小松明

御神体の宮上がり宮下がりの照明や、大松明の点火用に使われます。長さ2mほどです。



小松明を担ぐ人

■ Small Torches

These small torches are more than 2m in length. These are particularly used for illumination when ascending and descending the enshrined flags to and from the shrine. These torches are also used to light the main bamboo torch used in the festival.

サシ

大松明を立てるための竹竿です。長さも5m、6m、7mと各種製作され、大松明の立ち上がったいく角度によって使い分けられます。先端を鉋で削いで割れないように縄で縛られています。



突き立てられたサシ

■ Sashi

These various sized long bamboo poles are used to vertically stand the large bamboo torch during the festival. These poles are 5m, 6m, 7m, or more in length and are used to push the large bamboo torch upward. Once the large torch is vertically upright, these poles act as support in a triangular fashion. The tips are sharpened with a hatchet and tied with straw rope to prevent splitting.

大丸太

サシは大松明の先端に刺し突き上げますが、大丸太は大松明の元の方を支え押し上げることで直立させます。



大丸太を担ぐ人たち

■ Supporting Log

The sashi poles prod the underside of the lit end of the bamboo torch while the supporting log is held perpendicularly by people under the large bamboo torch, pushing upward to allow the sashi to further raise the heavy torch upright.

赤根善神王祭りの流れ

1. 13時頃 祭会場の準備

保存会が中心となり会場(赤根社、古幡社が隔年毎)準備をします。

2. 17時頃 神事と直会

赤根区の公民館で、玉串神に宮司が御幣をつけ神事が始まります。その後、関係者で直会と呼ばれる食事をします。

3. 19時頃 鎮め神楽の奉納

香々地の夷神楽の流れを汲むという赤根の神楽が奉納されます。

4. 19時30分頃 遷座行列

昔は、御神体の旗や奉納旗を人力でかついで会場に運んだそうですが、現在ではトラックで運ばれます。会場の社に到着した旗は社殿の向かって左側に安置されます。

5. 20時頃 松明起こし

松明台に乗せられた大松明に点火され、サシと呼ばれる長い竹竿で先端部を、大丸太で根本の方を徐々に持ち上げ松明が直立します。



点火

6. 20時45分頃 赤根御先手神楽の奉納

松明明かりのもと結界が作られ、神楽が奉納されます。



神楽

7. 21時頃 神踊り

善神王を慰める神踊りとして、盆踊りが行われます。

8. 22時頃 御籤降ろし

次年度の当場(祭りの責任者)を決めるために、吊籤による籤引きが行われます。



吊籤

9. 22時15分頃 御神体幟宮下り

会場の社を後にした御神体幟は、元の赤根区公民館の元の場所に安置されます。

10. 22時30分頃 御神酒開き(直会)

おみき開き(直会)が終わった後、善神王(武内宿禰)が相撲好きであったという古事から、昔は座敷相撲が行われていましたが、安全上の理由から腕相撲となり現在では行われなくなりました。

Akane Zenjou Festival Program

1. 13:00 Grounds Preparation

The preservation society plays a key role in the preparations of the grounds for the festival. (The festival alternates every other year between Akane Shrine and Kohata Shrine.)

2. 17:00 Shinto Ritual and Feast

Beginning with a Shinto ritual at the Akane public hall, a chief priest places plaited paper streamers on a small sakaki branch and blesses the evening's festivities. Afterwards, participants of the festival are treated to a meal called *naorai*, meaning feast.

3. 19:00 Offering of Tranquil Kagura

The Akane kagura descends from the Yebisu kagura of the Kakaji area in Bungotakada. (*Kagura is ancient Shinto music and dancing.)

4. 19:30 Procession to the Shrine

In the old days, the Zenjou festival flags were physically carried by men to the shrine grounds, but nowadays trucks are used to transport these large sacred objects. On arrival at the shrine, the flags are enshrined upright on the left side of the main building.

5. 20:00 Raising the Torch

The large bamboo torch is rested on a stand and set ablaze. Long bamboo poles called *sashi* are placed under the lit end of the torch and gradually push the torch upward little by little working toward the middle until the torch is vertically upright.

6. 20:45 Akane Vanguard Kagura

Ancient Shinto music and dancing act as offerings, creating a spiritual barrier within the area illuminated by the torch.

7. 21:00 Ritual Dance

The bon odori dance is performed to comfort the soul of Zenjou.

8. 22:00 Festival Committee Selection

In order to determine who will be responsible for the next year's festival, a raffle is held selecting next year's committee.

9. 22:15 Return Procession

After the grounds of the temple are finished being used, the festival flags are returned and enshrined in their original place at the Akane public hall.

10. 22:30 Sake Offering and Feast

A gathering is held to offer sake to the gods. Zenjou was said to like sumo wrestling, so in the old days when the feast was over and sake had been offered to Zenjou, sumo wrestling took place in formal tatami rooms. For safety reasons arm wrestling became the safer option, yet nowadays, neither is performed.

※「善神王」「善神王祭り」「善神王宮」の読み方は諸説ありますが便宜上、日本語では「ぜんじょうおう」英語では「Zenjou」で統一しています。

案内図



お問い合わせ

国東市教育委員会 文化財課

〒873-0504 大分県国東市国東町安国寺 1639-2

国東市歴史体験学習館内

TEL : 0978-72-2677

FAX : 0978-72-2505

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