

Okuninushi handed over his own country to Amaterasu ~Kuni yuzuri 国譲り~



Okuninushi's statue at Izumo Taisha

□ Long long time ago, there were three countries in the world, One is “Amatsu-kuni” 天國 or “Takamagahara 天原”, and “Ashiwar Nakatsu kuni 阿志賀國” and “Neno-kuni” 根國. Ashiwarano Nakatsu kuni was to become present day Japan. “Ne no-kuni” was the world of death. So, where was Amatsu-kuni ? The word “Ama” means “on the sky” or “heaven” in Japanese. So, it was above the clouds in mythology.

□ The deity who ruled “Ashiwarano Nakatsu-kuni” was “**Okuninushi**” 大穴杵尊.

□ One day, Amaterasu and other deities (They live in Amatsu-kuni) thought that they had rule that country. They sent a messenger to Okuninushi.

□ The first messenger was “**Ameno-bohi**” . He became Okuninushi's retainer and did not come back.

□ The second messenger was “**Ameno-wakahiko**”. He did not come back too because he married with Okuninushi's daughter.

□ The third messenger was “**Take-mikazuchi**”. He was a strong soldier. He pressed Okuninushi hard to reply. Okuninushi said, “I have two sons. I don't know whether they would agree even if I agreed. Take-mikazuchi asked the sons. One of them named “**Take-minakata**” answered as follows; “If you win a battle with me., I will agree.” So they fought and Take-minakata lost. He was frightened of Take-mikazuchi, because he was so strong. Take-minakata ran away to Suwa area (this is in Nagano prefecture) and said “Forgive me please. I will stay and

never go out.”

□Finally, Okuninushi handed over his own country to Amaterasu and he retired. This is the mythology of ceding of land.