

E-Mail Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama City “Challenge of Legendary Okayama” (36)  
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【After reading a book “A pine tree of Hideie Ukita”】

Hello, I'm Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

Have you ever read books about daimyo of Bizen Okayama in the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century “a Japanese feudal lord Hideie Ukita”? I read a book “A pine tree of Hideie Ukita” written by Nanae Shimada some days ago.

I would like to explain you a brief story about the book. It tells you about a human image of “Hideie Ukita” as a man. In the Battle of Sekigahara (in 1600), he engaged in it as a deputy general and his troops were completely defeated by an opponent. After that, the warlord “Hideie” was exiled to the remote island of Hachijo and he had had a mild monotonous life in the island.

In the story, two different human images are written about a man “Hideie Ukita”. One hand, an image of a warlord who fought in the big battle is shown. On the other hand, his personality as an exile with a various emotional conflict is described. These two different images are written one after the other with a light touch. By reading it, I found his sincere and gentle personality, feeling to his wife Ogo (princess Go), and a faith as a samurai.

Personally, I have had an image of The Family of Ukita as the same as Hideie's father “Naoie” who was called ‘Kyoyuu’, a cruel and clever samurai who uses every artifice and any means to attain his end, because Naoie's image was so strong. Therefore, I naturally had the image of The Family of Ukita for Hideie. However, his real personality was totally different with it.

I guessed that the author Shimada reached into the real Hideie's human image by reading a jillion literatures and much consideration from various angles. I was ashamed of myself for a shortage of my study and lack of recognition.

As the occasion arises, I have opportunities to talk about history and cultures of Okayama. I renewed my determination to study furthermore on this occasion. I would like to recommend everyone to read this book.

The images of Hideie and princess Go were erected at Nambarasenjokiki in island of Hachijo. Their eyes are looking at the direction of Okayama which is 600 kilometers away over the sea. I would like to make sure their figures with my eyes once.

Only several days are left in this year 2014. This mail magazine is the 30<sup>th</sup> issue from the first one in January 2014 and the last issue in this year. In closing, I would like to ask you to give us your continuous support for a dramatic development of Okayama City.

Please take good care of yourself in this intense cold weather and I wish you a glorious new year.