

【Kibi' s Prosperity】

Hello. This is Omori, the Mayor of Okayama City.

Do you know the history of ancient kibi? The other day I read a book called “The Mystery of Momotaro (peach boy) legend to decipher by ancient history” written by Yuji Seki. It was quite a suggestive piece of work.

Let me introduce the gist of the contents.

- From the 4th century to the early 5th century, by holding the seaborne trade of Seto Inland sea “Kibi” thrived and made efforts to found Yamato.
- Yamato initially took a form like emirate federation which consists of many regions and “Kibi” was a region that had accumulated the most power and wealth in all regions.
- At that time, Mr.Monobe substantially dominated Yamato regime and a place where he once lived was Kibi. However, since “Nihonshoki”(Chronicles of Japan) claims Fujiwara' s justice, the passage in which Soga and Monobe played an active role was obliterated and there is no mention of “Kibi” Province.

I don' t know the truth of these statements, however, against the fact

of grandness of Tsukuriyama Tumulus (the fourth largest in Japan and the largest keyhole-shaped tumulus except for Mausoleum of Emperor) I once saw, and the fact that stone which were ordered from Amakusa and Sanuki had used to create Sekisho and walls in the stone hut of Tsukuriyama Tumulus' s smaller tumuli, Sengoku Tumulus, I have no doubt that there was a considerable force that held the whole area of Seto Inland Sea in this era.

If it' s true that Kibi' s passages are hushed up, it is a real disappointment.

Furthermore, in this work, the author has also examined Kibitsuhiiko no Mikoto who became the original of Momotaro legend. The gist of contents is following;

- According to “Nihonshoki” , people believed that Kibitsuhiiko no Mikoto was dispatched from Yamato and penalized Izumo, however, in fact he was a man of Kibi. But the reality is uncertain.
- However, the presence of Kibi which Monobe' s hometown was buried in the darkness of history by Mr. Fujiwara who continued prosperity since then and the historical perspective which was built by him was difficult to break down. Therefore it is said that Kibi people kept praising the hero of “Kibi” by changing a story from what it used to be to the story of him slay the Ura.

The truth is unclear, but I think it's fun to explore places such as Kibitsu Shrine, as thinking about such history.

Soon, a season that hydrangea flowers bloom beautifully will be coming.

So why don't you travel around Kibiji?