



▲青井阿蘇神社(楼門)(人吉市)

あなたは、人吉市にある青井阿蘇神社 (Aoi-Aso Shrine)を知っていますか。青井阿蘇神社は、平成20(2008)年に熊本県で初めて国宝に指定されました。興味をもった山田さんは、宮司さんに会って話を聞きました。山田さんはどんなことを学んだのでしょうか。



熊本で初めての
国宝だモン

Ms. Yamada visited Aoi-Aso Shrine before, but she didn't look at it carefully. Actually she wasn't interested in it at all. Then she visited Aoi-Aso Shrine again, and the *guji* explained about it. This time she looked at everything carefully for the first time and found that the *romon* had many figures, colors and decorations. They were wonderful, and the masks on the corners were special. They can't be found at any other shrines, so they are called *Hitoyoshi-yoshiki*.

When she learned new things about the shrine, she was suprised. She became proud of it as a national treasure because she realized how precious it was. She thought there were more things to learn about Aoi-Aso Shrine.

She talked about Aoi-Aso Shrine with her father at home. Her father said, "I'm glad you are interested in traditional culture. You know the *Okunchi* Festival. If we continue to treasure this festival, that means we will treasure Aoi-Aso Shrine."

- ・actually 実際は
- ・*guji* 宮司
- ・explain ~を説明する
- ・*romon* 楼門
- ・figure 姿
- ・decoration 装飾
- ・mask お面
- ・*Hitoyoshi-yoshiki* 人吉様式
- ・was suprised 驚いた
- ・realize 理解する
- ・how precious it was それがどんなに貴重なものであるか
- ・area 地域
- ・*Okunchi* Festival おくち祭り
- ・continue to ~ ~し続ける
- ・treasure ~を大事にする

The *Okunchi* Festival is the biggest festival in the Hitoyoshi-Kuma area. Every year many people come to see it. During the festival, many events are held, and *tsubon-jiru*, a traditional soup, is cooked too.

Ms. Yamada wanted to know more about the *Okunchi* Festival because she realized how valuable traditional events and dishes are.

She visited the *guji* again. He said, "Aoi-Aso Shrine is for all the people in the Hitoyoshi-Kuma area. This shrine has become a wonderful national treasure." She will never forget his words.

- ・event 行事
- ・*tsubon-jiru* つぼんじり
- ・valuable 価値のある
- ・dish 料理



▲*はいでん* 拜殿



▲人吉様式(屋根下の四隅に8つの神面が取り付けられたもの)

青井阿蘇神社は平安時代の初め(806年)に創建されました。そして平成20(2008)年には本殿、廊、幣殿、拜殿、楼門が県内では初となる国宝に指定されました。地元の人々からは親しみを込めて「青井さん」と呼ばれています。

After Reading

●あなたの地域で誇れるものを、(例)を参考にして、英語で紹介しましょう。

(例) There is a beautiful river in the Hitoyoshi-Kuma area. We call it the Kawabe River. Many people visit there and enjoy fishing or rafting. We also have a very big fireworks festival every summer.