

The Request of the *Kappa*

日本各地に残る河童伝説。私たちのふるさと熊本にも河童にまつわる話が言い伝えられています。舞台は鹿本の小柳。さて、どんな話でしょうか。



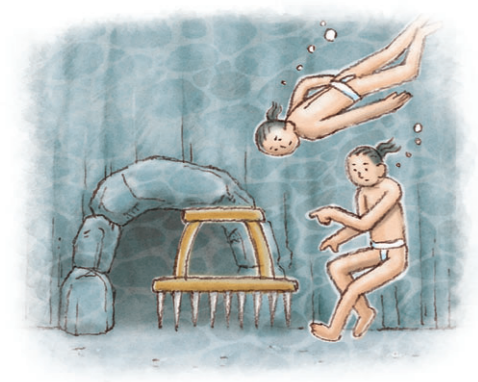
A long time ago, there were two brothers in Koyanagi, Kamoto. They were called Sosei and Kosei. One night, they had the same dream. In their dream, a *kappa* appeared and asked them to help him.

A monster with nine fangs has been at the entrance of my house these days. I'm really scared of it. I can't go out. I can't sleep. Please get rid of it.



- request 頼み, 願い
- appear 現れる
- monster 怪物
- fang きば
- entrance 入口
- scared おびえた
- get rid of ~ ~を退治する
- finally ついに
- dive 飛び込む
- maguwa 馬鎌(まぐわ)

The next day, Sosei and Kosei talked about their dream. They could not decide what to do, but finally they dived into the river to help the *kappa*. They found a *maguwa* near the entrance of the *kappa's* house. *Maguwa* are used for rice growing. The *kappa* thought it was a monster.



Oh, this is the monster that the *kappa* was talking about. It has sharp fangs. It looks really scary.

- sharp 鋭い
- scary 恐ろしい

The brothers moved it from the entrance. The next morning, Sosei and Kosei found a lot of fish in a basket next to their well. Then they heard a voice from the river.

Thank you very much. I played tricks on you before, but I'll never do it again. Please enjoy swimming in the river from now on.



- next to ~ ~のとなりに
- well 井戸
- play tricks on ~ ~にいたずらする
- from now on 今から

山鹿市鹿本町小柳には、今でも兄弟の墓と河童の手が残っています。河童は鉄類を大変恐れたと言われています。この後数百年の間、小柳の里から水難がなくなったそうです。

After Reading

- 兄弟は、なぜ河童を助けることにしたのでしょうか。お互いの考えを出し合ってみましょう。
- 本文中に出てくる河童を例のように説明しました。この例を参考にして、河童のようにあなたの住む地域で昔から言い伝えられていることについて紹介文を作ってみましょう。

(例) I heard that a *kappa* lived in my town a long time ago. The *kappa* helped people with rice planting. It was very friendly. I hope I can see it somewhere someday.

