

# *UFO Criticism by J.N. from Japan*

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## A Japanese Old UFOlogist

When I was a student at Waseda University of Tokyo, 30 years ago or so, in its library I came across an old Japanese book, *Kaii Bendan: Ten-i Hen (Study of Mysteries: The Volume on heavenly Anomalies)*. It was written by Joken Nishikawa (1648-1724), a celebrated astronomer and geographer in Samurai era. The table of contents says: "The heavens opens" "The moon wanes when it can not wane" "The sun appears at night" "Two suns or several suns appear in a row" "The heavens rains fish" etc. Some of them may remind you of ancient Roman records. And Nishikawa describes:

"There are many events of hair-rain in Japan and China. Japanese popular view regards them as furs of a dragon horse. What is a dragon horse? The view says it is a horse that the thunder god rides. Laughable! When I was a child, one day men and women took and looked fallen hairs wonderingly. One said, they are not hairs but the ears of Susuki (grass) or but a kind of Obana (grass). Another said, if they are real hairs, when burned, they will have the same smell as hairs. So they were put into fire, but not the smell of hairs."

These objects may have been stretched lava, the so-called "Pele's Hair" (Pele is the fire goddess of Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean); Japan has many active volcanoes (#1). Or, they may have been "gossamer," threads of flying spiders; also in Japan some spiders float on the wind, using their long threads (#2).

Nishikawa amuses me (I have read only a part of this book) with many records of strange aerial phenomena collected from Chinese histories, and with his own above story. In contrast, his theories bore me. However, our UFOlogy also will bore future people. For them our UFOlogy will be fundamentally valuable only as a carrier of information, though we wish to be more than a Joken Nishikawa. Of course, such carrying is a creditable contribution. And If we are fully conscious of our limitations, we will be a good adviser for future people who have their own limitations. You are not alone. —

#1 Pele is a blonde; meanwhile Japanese goddesses rain their black hairs: thicker threads of lava.

#2 Hundreds before Nishikawa, in the 11th century or so, Chinese had already known what these white objects were. Notice that Nishikawa calls his objects not "white hairs" but "hairs."

## Sky People Comes Back

In February 2006, Sky People Association (Tenku-jin Kyokai) published an issue, the 3rd issue called "No.2" (the 1st issue is "No.0" ), of *Sky People* magazine (titled in English) after an interval of eight years. And Mr. Osamu Sato (1963-), the president of SPA, brought out one issue after another; the newest is the 7th issue (May). These issues are printed in color unlike past issues. But Mr. Sato only can send them off to around 10 persons, because new issues are handmade publications.

Every issue is very rich in content. For instance, "Did Mr. Saburo Sakai, a Samurai of the Sky!, See a Foo Fighter?" of the 4th issue (February; nominally December 2003). Mr. Sakai, an ace fighter-pilot of 'World' War II, told Mr. Sato on the telephone in August 2000 that he had seen some times "an object like a hito-dama (a human soul; this means a fire ball) or an object like a metal bucket," which had passed by his plane. But Mr. Sato could have no interview with him because of his unexpected passing in the next month.

■ Mr. Kiyoshi Amamiya (1944-) took part in "World UFO Conference" held in Dalian City of China on September 8-10, 2005. His lecture about Dogu, spacesuit-like clay doll of prehistoric Japan, was given on September 9, with two replicas of Dogu on his table. After the lecture finished, many hearers came to the table and asked him various questions.

## Flying Sun of Ancient Japan

*Amamiya UFO kenkyu-shitsu Tsushin (News from Amamiya UFO Study Office) No.28 (April 2006)* reproduces main parts of an investigation report, "*The Ship of the Sun: the Ancient Culture of the Kii Peninsula as UFOLOGY See It*", written by three young CBA activists including Mr. Kiyoshi Amamiya (1944-) and published in 1971. This vast, heavily wooded peninsula situated in the center of Japan proper has many old sacred places, for instance, *Ise Jingu (Holy Shrine of Ise)*, the shrine of the great sun goddess *Amaterasu*, an ancestor of the Imperial Family of Japan, is in the eastern part. The authors took trips to the peninsula in 1969 and 1970.

At *Izawa no Miya (Shrine of Izawa)*, a high rank shrine belongs to *Ise Jingu*, they observe a festival (June), while which a very long bamboo pole fitted with two huge fans is raised at the side of a sacred paddy field. The upper, round fan has a design of the sun and others on it, and the lower, inverted triangular fan has a design of a sailing ship on it; a mythologist already regarded these fans as the Ship of the Sun (see the left photo from *Ise Jingu* website). Ancient Egyptians believed that the sun went by ship in the air, and ancient Japanese may also! Indeed a thunderbolt god of Kyoto City, north of this peninsula, comes to a big rock on the top of his mountain, using "Ama no Iwa-fune (Rock-ship of the Sky)."

There is *Mt. Aomine* (336 meters above sea level) about 3,500 meters from *Izawa no Miya*. On the mountain is *Shofuku-ji*, an old Buddhist temple. For sailors this temple has been a powerful guardian since long ago, and a big rock in the precinct is believed to shoot a light in order to guide a ship in distress in the dark. 'A big rock'? Yes, this seems to be an example of the merger of Japanese myth and imported Buddhism.

The CBA activists are told by a woman who lives at the foot of *Mt. Aomine* that local people traditionally often see a flying luminous body called "Hiyori Dama (Fine-weather Ball)." It appears in a spell of fine-weather (hiyori). In her case at one dusk, it was an orange object with a triangular tail flying low at high speed. "Fine weather" may indicate the relation to 'the sun.'

Around 120 kilometers from *Izawa no Miya*, in the southern part of the Kii Peninsula is *Kumano Nachi Taisha (Great Shrine of Kumano Nachi)*. At its dynamic fire festival (July), twelve red "mikoshi" appear. Mikoshi means "palanquin for god/goddess," and is usually in the shape of a house. But in this festival, entirely different: it is a very long board. Each "mikoshi" has

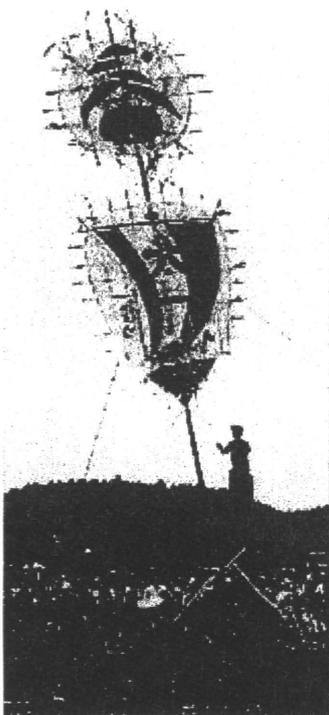
several ornaments made of mainly folding fans. And some of them remind the CBA activists of the Winged Sun Disk of ancient Middle and Near East (see the right figure and the 3rd issue).

From Taiji Town near this shrine have the authors a distant view of a large, triple concentric circle engraved on a precipice of a big rock on the southern sea. What does this 'sun' mean?

*Kumano Nachi Taisha* is one of three shrines called *Kumano San-zan (Kumano Three Mountains)*. Their lords are called *Kumano Gongen*, and "gongen" means that these three gods are the Buddhas in disguise: another example of the above merger. According to a legend, the gongen appeared at a big tree in the form of "three moons."

And an old document in the custody of *Kashima Jinja (Kashima Shrine)*, in Minabe Town in the southern part of the peninsula, tells of an event in 1707: a white, round luminous body in a great tsunami protected this town by means of dividing the tsunami into two waves and carrying the bigger wave away! This object finally flew into the holy island, *Kashima*, in the offing (#1).

#1 In his book *Jishin Namazu (Earthquake Catfish)* published in 1957, Mr. Kinkichi Musha (1891-1962), an authority on earthquake history, regards the 1707 story as a fact, because one night of 1933 some people saw round lights in or on a tsunami that attacked Northern Japan. Mr. Musha supposes that each light was a group of some luminous creatures. However, according to the *Kashima Jinja* document written by a victim of the tsunami (he is not a witness of the luminous body), the 1707 object was seen in the daytime. Light of any luminous creature must not be noticed by human eyes under the sun. Mr. Musha is based on another document, which was written in 1855. These two documents are contained in Mr. Amamiya's excellent book, *UFOLOGY Shiryo (UFOLOGY Data, 1991; see the 1st issue page 5)*.



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