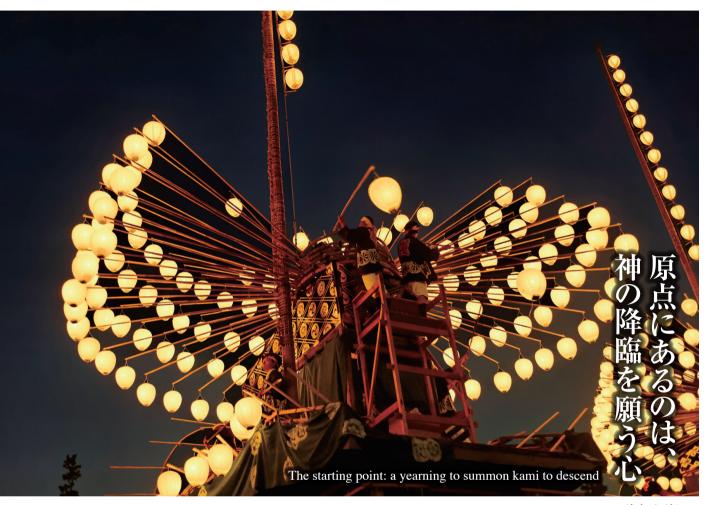
山車・からくりの起源

The Origin of Dashi Floats and Karakuri



津島天王祭 Tsushima Tenno Festival

神社で祭礼を行うとき、樹木、美しく飾った柱、花笠、人形などを立て、 天から降りてきた神がとどまるべきところの目標「依り代(よりしろ)」としました。 また、神は神聖な山に降臨すると考えられていたため、置山が作られました。 やがてこれらに車輪をつけて山車となり、町に曳き出されるようになったのです。 これが山車の起源です。

山車の原点には、人々の神の降臨を願う心がありました。

When ceremonies are conducted at Shinto shrines, items such as trees, attractively decorated pillars, flower-adorned hanagasa hats, and dolls are set up to serve as yorishiro – targets for kami descending from heaven to occupy. As kami were also held to descend to sacred mountains, stylized mounds were also fashioned. Eventually, wheels were attached to such objects, making them dashi floats that came to be pulled around the streets of the town.

This was the origin of dashi floats.

Dashi floats arose from human yearning to summon kami to descend.

絆と誇りによって 受け継がれてきた山車祭

祭りに山車を曳き出す風習はアジア諸国独特のもので、日本では869年に始まった京都の祇園祭が山鉾の出る祭りとして全国に影響を与えました。現在、日本全国に分布する山車の数はおよそ5,000といわれ、山、鉾(ほこ)、屋台、曳山(ひきやま)、だんじりなど、地方によってさまざまな名称で呼ばれています。町に曳き出された山車に、人々は地域の繁栄、家族の無事を祈ります。各地の人々の強い絆と誇りによって、山車祭は代々受け継がれてきました。

日本の真ん中は「からくり山車」の宝庫

からくり人形の載る山車が出現したのは中世の終わり。そして江戸時代、からくり人形のおもしろさと、山車の妙味を合わせた「からくり山車」は人気となり、各地に広がっていきます。特に東海・北陸にはからくり山車が今も多く残り、「からくり山車の宝庫」と呼ばれています。

産業技術の世界的な集積地 その源にあるもの

生きているかのように手足を動かし、見事な芸を披露するからくり人形。その設計・製作にあたっては、科学的な知恵や、モノづくりの技が欠かせません。からくり山車は、各町の間で人形の精巧さや演技の多彩さが競われ、高い技術進歩を遂げました。現在、中部地方は自動車産業をはじめ、精密機器や工作機械、航空宇宙など、さまざまな産業技術の世界的な集積地として発展しています。そのルーツには「もっと人々を楽しませたい」という思いを源とする、からくり山車の技術研鑽がありました。

Dashi float festivals – traditions continued through human ties and pride

The custom of pulling portable dashi floats is characteristic of Asian countries, and in Japan, the Gion festival that began in Kyoto in AD 869 had an influence throughout the country as a festival featuring the appearance of yamahoko floats. At present, the number of dashi floats distributed throughout Japan is said to be around 5,000, and they are known by various different regional names, including yama, hoko, yatai, hikiyama, and danjiri. The dashi floats pulled through the streets are objects of prayer by people hoping for the prosperity of their region and the safety of their families. Dashi float festivals have been carried on from generation to generation through the strong ties and pride of the people in the locales where they are celebrated.

Central Japan – a treasure-trove of karakuri dashi floats

Dashi floats fashioned with mechanical karakuri marionettes appeared before the 1600s, at the end of Japan's Middle Ages. Subsequently, in the Edo period, karakuri dashi floats combining entertaining karakuri marionettes with charming dashi floats became popular and spread to many regions. In the Tokai and Hokuriku regions in particular, large numbers of such floats remain even today, and the area has come to be dubbed a treasure-trove of karakuri dashi floats.

A globally leading region of industrial technology – what prompted its inception

Karakuri marionettes feature limbs that move as if alive and perform entertaining tasks with wonderful adroitness. Essential to their design and fabrication are scientific knowledge and the skills and techniques of making things. In every town, karakuri dashi floats have strived to feature the most exquisite marionettes and demonstrate the most diverse performances, and this rivalry has driven technical progress to high levels. Today the Chubu region is one of the world's foremost areas of concentrated industrial technology of many types, including automobile production, precision equipment and forming machinery, and aerospace. Its roots lie at the dedicated techniques and skills of dashi floats, driven by the desire to fashion ever more entertaining floats and dolls.



高山祭 Takayama Festival



犬山祭 Inuyama Festival



高岡御車山祭 Takaoka Mikurumayama Festival