

## MOMIJIGARI, or Maple Viewing

### The outline of Momijigari:

There was a beautiful Princess who lived in Mt.Togakushi-Yama. Her name was Princess Sarashina-Hime. In the autumn, she took her servants, and went into the mountain. She loved to view the Momiji-maple which turned red. She held a feast with her servants, and enjoyed appreciating the autumnal scene. The maple leaves in the fall were fantastic. It happened that a Samurai whose name was Taira-no-Koremochi, high-ranked, together with his vassals, passed by near Princess Sarashina-Hime. Sarashina-Hime's servant witnessed Taira-no-Koremochi, and invited, saying, " Why don't you join us to enjoy the wonderful maple leaves scene? "

Koremochi took the sight of Princess Sarashina-Hime, and immediately fell in love with the Princess, who was fascinating. " Let's drink sake," said the Princess, and tempted to drink sake to Koremochi, who drank sake too much, which made him fast asleep. Koremochi had entirely forgotten the Emperor's order to exterminate Kijo, or ogress, and fell into sleep heavily.

When Koremochi fell fast asleep, the Princess and her servants disappeared. While Koremochi was sleeping, Takenouchi-no-Kami was hurriedly heading for Mt.Togakushi Yama. Hachiman-no-Kami is the deity of Ikusa or wars. It is Takenouchi-no-Kami that was subjected to the mighty Hachiman-no-Kami deity.

In the deep dream of Koremochi, Takenouchi-no-Kami turned up, and warned Koremochi. " That fascinating Princess with her servants who treated you with sake is the ogress that dwells in Mt.Togakushi-Yama. If you keep sleeping as you are, you shall die by Kijo , or ogress. I now hand you this sword granted from that great Hachiman-no-Kami . Fight! Against the Kijo aggress with this sword." Koremochi who woke up from the dream fully understood Takenouchi-no-Kami's warning.

Koremochi, who had the sword was now able to be prepared for fighting sufficiently. The sword was a noted one called Karasu-Maru.

Koremochi gallantly fought against the Kijo, and finally gained a glorious victory. Koremochi conquered the Kijo ogress inhabited in Mt. Togakushi-Yama.

Koremochi thanked Takenouchi-Kami. Koremochi gave his thanks to Hachiman-no-Kami, who had given the powerful sword.