

千代は、江戸時代に芦北で生まれました。父親は、病気のため別れて暮らさなければなりません。母親は、千代が9歳のときに亡くなりました。祖父と祖母は高齢で、畑を耕すことができなくなりましたが、千代は、いつも二人が喜ぶように世話をしました。



Chiyo was nine years old when her mother died. After that she lived with her grandfather and grandmother. She worked very hard in the field.

Her grandparents became older and Chiyo's family became much poorer. They did not have enough food to eat.

Her grandfather could not move well. But he often said to Chiyo, "I can help you with your work in the field." "Thank you, Grandpa," Chiyo said. She carried him on her back to the field and began to work. Her grandfather sat under a tree and watched Chiyo with a smile. Everyone in the village knew Chiyo's kindness to her grandparents.

One day some people said, "I thought Chiyo was very kind to her grandparents. But I heard she goes to sleep in the *futon* before her grandparents every day."

Then two young men in the village went to Chiyo's house. It was a very cold night. They looked inside the house, and then they were surprised. "It is true. Chiyo is sleeping in the *futon* before her grandparents."

When the two young men were going to go back,

- ・die 死ぬ
- ・grandfather 祖父
- ・grandmother 祖母
- ・field 畑
- ・grandparents 祖父母
- ・became ~になった (becomeの過去形)
- ・move 動く
- ・Grandpa おじいちゃん
- ・carry ~を運ぶ
- ・back 背中
- ・began 始める (beginの過去形)
- ・smile 微笑み
- ・kindness 優しさ

- ・heard ~を聞いた (hearの過去形)
- ・futon ふとん

- ・men manの複数形

- ・be surprised 驚く

Chiyo got up and said, "Grandpa and Grandma, the *futon* is warm. Now you can go to sleep." The two young men were surprised once again. They went back to the village and told the people about it.

Later the lord of Kumamoto heard this story, and he sent an officer to Chiyo's house. When the officer went into the house, Chiyo was eating rice, and her grandparents were eating millet. The officer was surprised and said, "Chiyo! I heard that you are very kind to your grandparents. But what's this?"

The officer looked at Chiyo's rice bowl again. He was surprised once again. He thought Chiyo was eating rice, but it was *okara*. He said, "I'm sorry, Chiyo. I made a big mistake."

The lord heard about this from the officer and was very impressed. After that the lord sent ten bales of rice to Chiyo every year until she died.

- ・Grandma おばあちゃん
- ・once again またまた
- ・told 話した(tellの過去形)
- ・lord 殿様
- ・sent ~を送った(sendの過去形)
- ・officer 役人
- ・millet あわ
- ・rice bowl 茶碗
- ・mistake 間違い
- ・be impressed 感心する
- ・ten bales of ~ 10俵の~
- ・until ~まで



千代の墓は千代塚といわれ、葦北郡津奈木町の国道3号のそばに造られています。そして、墓の前にはいつも花が飾られています。

◀千代塚(津奈木町)

After Reading

- 家の人のためを考えて何かしたことはありますか。また、その時の気持ちはどうでしたか。