

地区の人々がたくさん集まってやります。

Many people gather around and join this ritual.

まるで火の塔のようになって赤々と燃えます。

The fire gets bigger and looks like a tower of flame.

残り火で餅を焼いて食べると健康に暮らせると言われています。

Eating a piece of rice cake grilled in the fire is believed to keep us in good health.

＜^{せつぶん}節分＞Setsubun (The Beginning of the Natural Year)

節分は季節の分かれ目です。

Setsubun signals the change of seasons.

2月3日か2月4日です。

It is either the 3rd or 4th of February.

この時期が1年のうちで一番寒い時期で、節分が過ぎると暖かくなり、春が近づいてきます。

It is the coldest time of the year. After the Setsubun, the weather gets a little bit warmer and spring eventually comes.

節分には豆まきをします。「鬼は外、福は内」と叫びながらまきます。

At the Setsubun ritual, people throw roasted soybeans and say, "Devils out! Fortunes in!"

年の数だけ、豆を拾って食べると健康に暮らせるといわれています。

We are told to eat the same number of soybeans as our age so that we may stay healthy.

節分では年男や年女がまきます。その年と同じ十二支に生まれた人で12歳の人初めて年男年女になります。

The act of throwing beans is done by males and females who were born in the same Chinese zodiac year as the current year. Technically, the 12-year-old boys and girls who were born in the same Chinese zodiac year as the current year should throw the first beans.

12種類の動物を当てはめて十二支の年回りを表します。

The Chinese zodiac represents a cycle of 12 years.

ネズミで始まり、ウシ、トラ、ウサギ、リュウ、ヘビ、ウマ、ヒツジ、サル、トリ、イヌ、イノシシで12年で一回りします。

These years are represented by 12 animals in Japan: rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, serpent, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and boar.

＜^{もも}桃の^{せっき}節句＞Momo no Sekku (Girls' Festival)

3月3日は、桃の節句です。雛祭りが女の子のいる家で行われます。

The Girls' Festival is held on March 3rd by the families who have girls.

昔は、雛人形に、病気や悪運を乗り移らせて、子供の身代わりに川に流したりしました。今は雛人形を大切にしまって、毎年飾ります。

A set of beautiful dolls decorates the house. In the old days, people would make the dolls and then throw them into the river as if the dolls absorbed all the bad luck and illness from the children.

雛人形は布や紙でできた人形です。

The dolls are made from cloth and paper.

これを飾り、あられやひしもち、白酒などを供え、女の子の幸せと健康を祈ります。

We decorate them with lozenge-size rice cake cubes and white sake. We wish our girls happiness and health.