

2. 二神の結婚 “Marriage of Two Deities”

Izanaki-no-mikoto and Izanami-no-mikoto descended from heaven onto Onogoro-shima. On the island they raised a heavenly pillar and a magnificent palace. After that, Izanaki asked Izanami, “How is your body formed?” Izanami replied, “My body is insufficiently formed. There’s a part that is lacking.” Izanami responded, “My body is excessively formed. There’s a part that is too much. So how about filling up your lacking part with my part that is too much, and make countries together? What do you think about this idea?” “It would be good.” answered Izanami. Upon receiving the consent, Izanaki said, “All right. We should go round this heaven pillar together. But would you go in the opposite direction? When we get together again, we should carry out our plan.” They agreed. Izanaki asked Izanami, “Would you go on the right side of the heavenly pillar? I will go on the left.” Then they parted and went each separate way round the pillar. After a while they met again. Izanami spoke first, “How handsome you are!” And then Izanami spoke in response, “How beautiful you are!” After the exchange had finished, Izanaki said to her, “It was not proper of you, a woman, to open the exchange first.” But they somehow went through with their plan. Yet the baby born was as flabby as a leech. So it was put away into the water on the boat of reeds. Next born was Awa-shima. This was also unsatisfactory, and not counted, either.