



# Ō no Mai, Dance of the Tengu

Miyashiro, Mihama-cho; Kiyama, Wakasa-cho; Elsewhere

A dancer wearing a *tengu* mask displays his skills with flourish at the local shrine. Along with the sounds of accompanying flutes and drums, this performance heralds the arrival of spring to Wakasa.



Ō no Mai performance at Mimi Shrine (Prefectural Folk Cultural Property)<sup>①</sup>



Mimi Shrine

Every May brings a performance of the *Ō no mai*, a traditional dance featuring a man dressed as a *tengu* (a common character in Japanese folklore) is performed at Mimi Shrine in Mihama-cho's Miyashiro district. It is said that this dance's origins lie with the imperial family, and several shrines throughout Wakasa hold performances of it.



Ō no Mai at Mimi Shrine<sup>②</sup>

The dance is also performed on April 8th at Wakasa-cho's Uwase Shrine (located in the Kiyama district), in order to give thanks for bountiful harvests and pray for bumper crops.

The form and purpose of *Ō no Mai* varies from region to region, and is an indelible part of spring ritual in the Wakasa area.



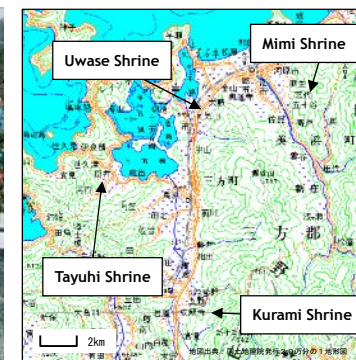
Ō no Mai at Uwase Shrine (National Intangible Folk Cultural Property)<sup>③</sup>



Ō no Mai at Kurami Shrine (Pref. Folk Cultural Property)<sup>④</sup>



Ō no Mai performance at Tayuhi Shrine (Prefectural Folk Cultural Property)<sup>⑤</sup>



Photos ①~② courtesy of Mihama-cho, ③~⑤ of Wakasa-cho