

しゅりじょうせいでん

首里城正殿のヒミツ

Secrets about the Seiden
Main Hall of Shuri Castle

しし

ぼたん

獅子と牡丹

Lions and Peonies



Wow!





Lions with
beautiful
flowers!

How lovely!

What do you mean, Hakutaku?

They are lions and peonies.



The lion is
traditionally the
king of beasts.




However, even
lions have
weaknesses.

An example is
parasites in
their bodies.


لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ





Lions cannot
remove parasites
from their body.

ぐりり...



So, they
need to take
medicine.

They take
morning dew
drops on the
petals of peonies
as medicine.




To protect themselves,
the beasts cannot part
from peonies.

I see.



As a symbol of strength,
lions are hidden together
with peonies all over the
Seiden Main Hall.





Let's go
and find them!

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りゅう かえん ほうじゅ

龍と火焰宝珠

Dragons and flaming jewels





Hey,
Hakutaku.

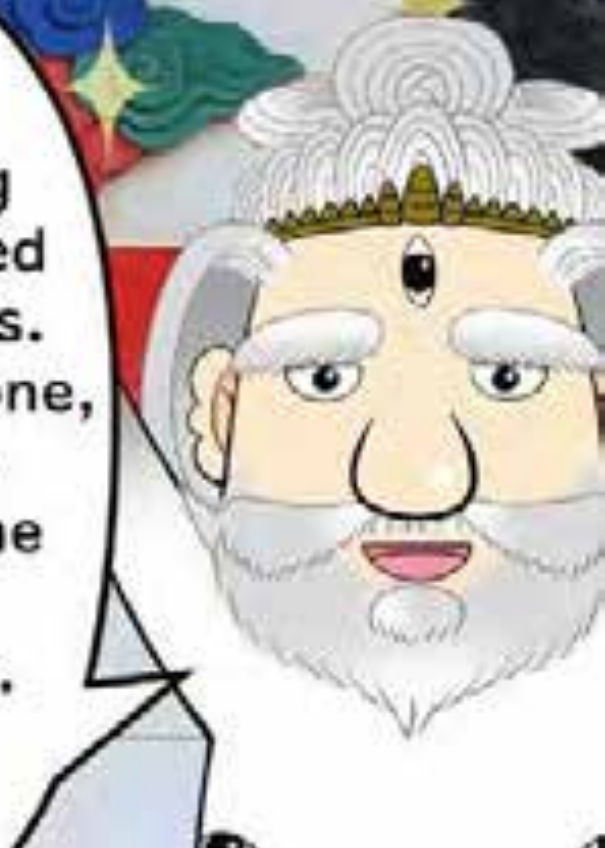


Shuri Castile has a lot
of paintings of dragons
and flaming balls.
Is there any reason
for this?





These flaming balls are called flaming jewels. If you catch one, you can make your wish come true, whatever it is.





Apparently,
a pair of dragons
are fighting over
the jewel.



Maybe
that is true.





Dragons and
flaming jewels are
also depicted on



lacquerware



**Black Lacquered Mother-of-Pearl
Inlay Tray with a Motif of Clouds
and Dragons**

Bingata-dyed
fabrics



It seems like the
Ryukyuan people of the
past loved this motif.



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ぶどう

りす

葡萄と栗鼠

Grapes and Squirrels






This is a throne.

Squirrels are depicted
here.



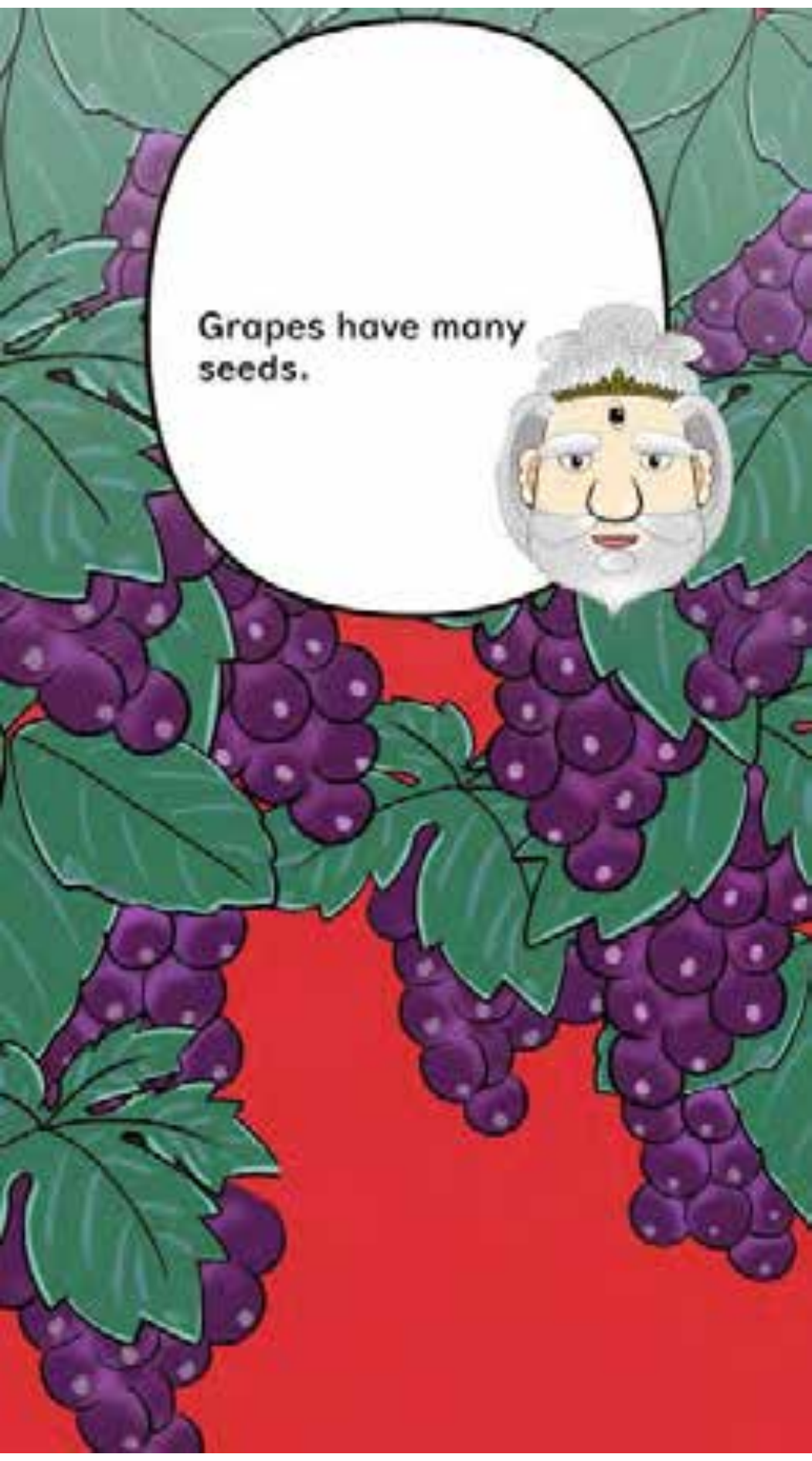


Do they eat
grapes?
How adorable!



What?

Satonushi, this motif
has a meaning.



Grapes have many
seeds.

And squirrels have
large litters.




So, the motif of grapes
and squirrels represents
wishes for happiness and
prosperity





for the descendants
and the state of
Ryukyu.





Don't miss it when
you come here!

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せい でん に か い ぎ ょ く さ

正殿二階の玉座に


え が

クレマチス


描かれた鉄線

The Clematis Painted
on the Throne on the Second
Floor of the Seiden Main Hall





Satonushi...

A cartoon illustration of a traditional Chinese interior. In the center is a dark, ornate throne with intricate carvings. A red circle highlights a specific pattern on the front of the throne. To the left, a young character with black hair, large brown eyes, and a red headband looks towards the throne. To the right, an elderly man with a long white beard, a small crown, and a white robe looks at the throne. A large white speech bubble is positioned above the throne, containing text. The background features red pillars, golden decorative elements, and a patterned curtain.


**Do you know about
this pattern on the
throne**

**on the second
floor of the Seiden
Main Hall?**



It's a beautiful flower pattern.
I wonder what flower it is.






**The Japanese
name is tesssen.**

**Nowadays,
we call it clematis!**



It's a flower that's often grown in English gardens!




A character with a red hat and black hair is shown from the chest up, looking upwards with a surprised expression. The background is a dense field of purple flowers. A large, white, cloud-shaped speech bubble is positioned above the character's head.


I see.

**But
why did they use a
clematis pattern?**



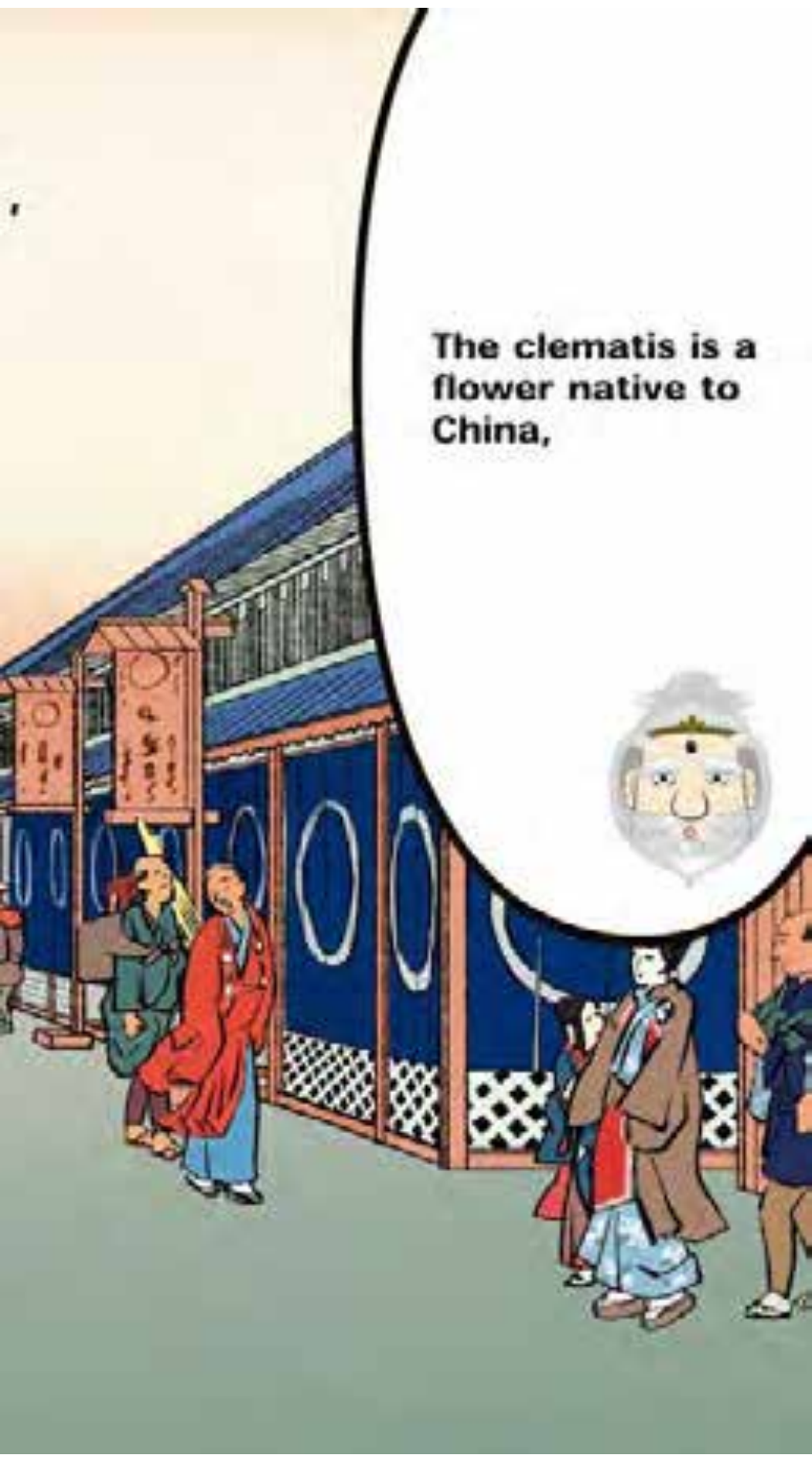


It was the latest
trend at the time.



Huh!?
What do you mean!?

**The clematis is a
flower native to
China,**



but during the Edo
period in Japan,
clematis designs on

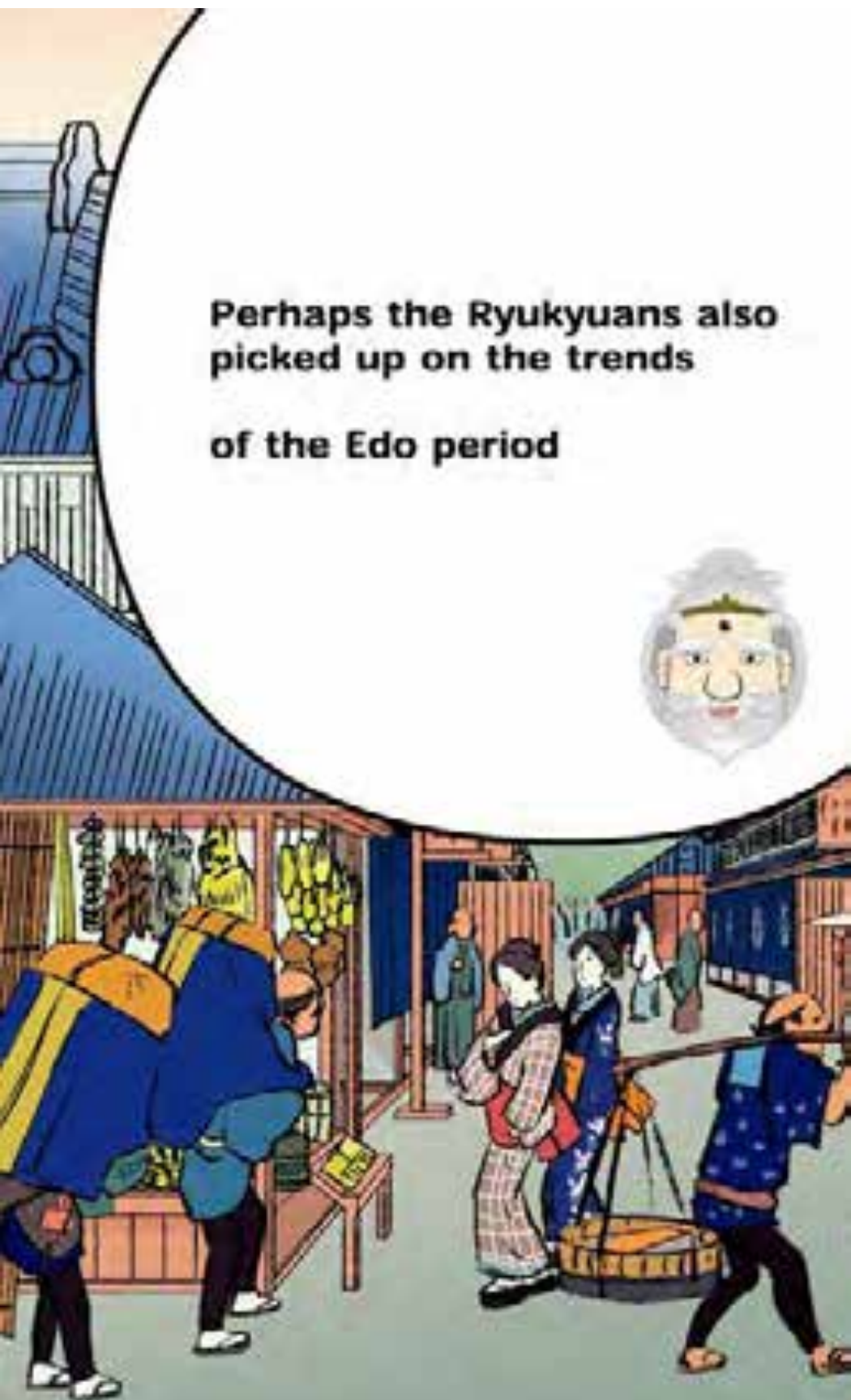
women's kimonos
became all the rage!



Is that so?



Perhaps the Ryukyuan also
picked up on the trends
of the Edo period




**and used the pattern for the
king's throne!**



■ 沖縄県立芸術大学付属図書館・芸術資料館所蔵

■ 鎌倉芳太郎撮影



So the king was a fashionable man!

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せいでん や ね

正殿屋根の

か うつり変わり

Evolution of the Roof of the
Seiden Main Hall



**The Seiden Main Hall
of Shuri Castle really
looks incredible!**



Satonushi...

**Did you know that the roof
of Shuri Castle wasn't always
made of red tiles?**





Huh!?

**What do you
mean?**

**In the 15th century,
the roof of the
Seiden Main Hall**



※15世紀頃のイメージ図

was actually made
of shingles!

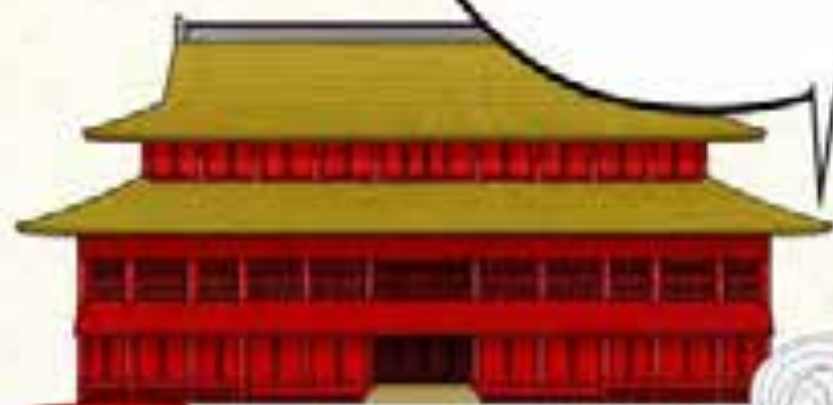


No way!



※15世紀頃のイメージ図

**After a fire in the
17th century, it
was rebuilt**



※17世紀頃のイメージ図

using gray
tiles.



the tiles on the
Seiden Main Hall
were gradually
replaced with red
ones!

Starting around
the 18th century,



**It was this red-tiled, 18th-century
Seiden Main Hall that was used as
the model for restoration!**



**I see.
I didn't know that!**




Over the course of the Ryukyu
Kingdom's history,

the roof of the Seiden Main Hall
transformed due to fires,



**reconstruction and
changes in tile-making
techniques.**






**When you're looking
at Shuri Castle,
picturing the changes**

**in the roof of the
Seiden Main Hall
really brings the
history to life!**





That's right!

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Secrets about the Seiden
Main Hall of Shuri Castle

から は ふ ひ みつ

唐玻豊の秘密①

The Secrets of the Karahafu
Part 1



**The most prominent
part of the facade of
the Seiden Main Hall
is called a karahafu!**



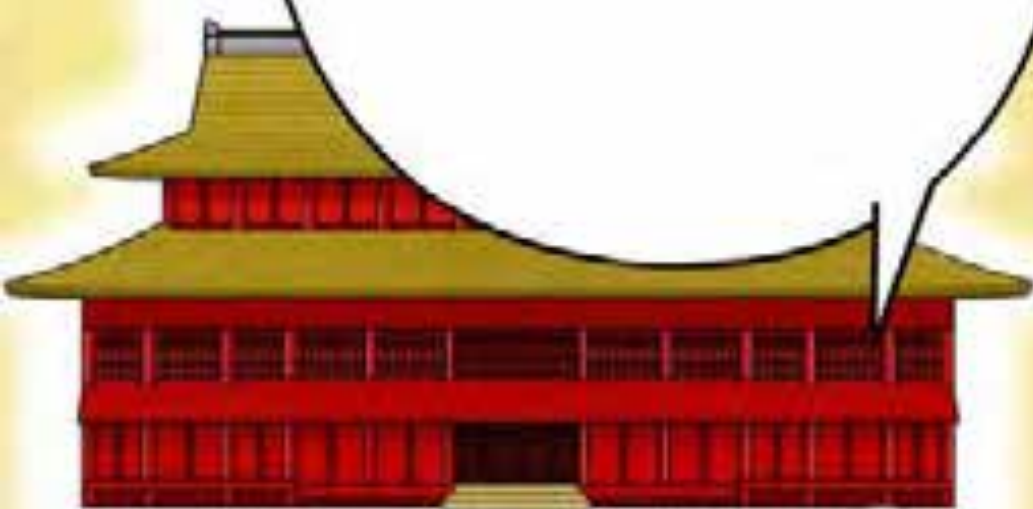
It's like the face
of the Seiden
Main Hall!



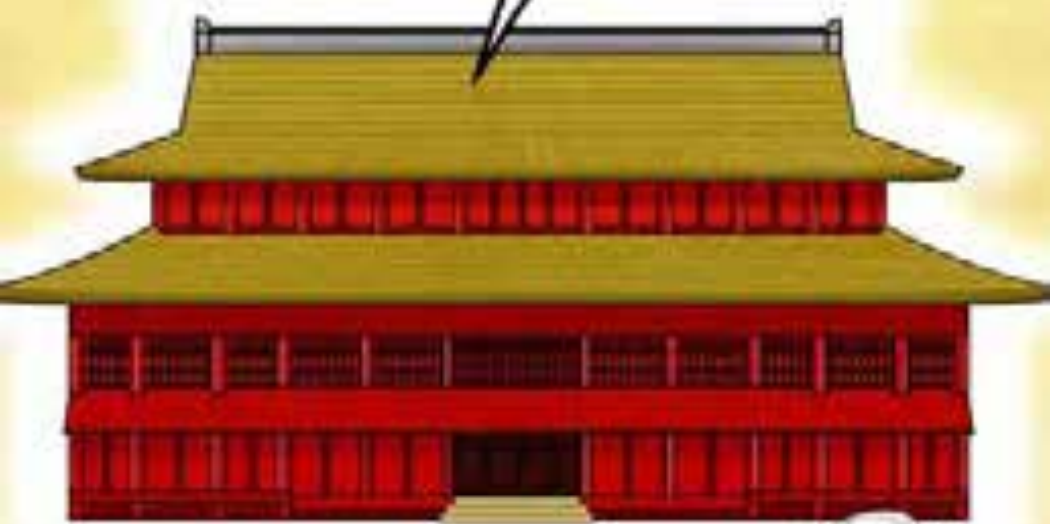
Karahafu were influenced by the way Japanese shrines and temples were built!



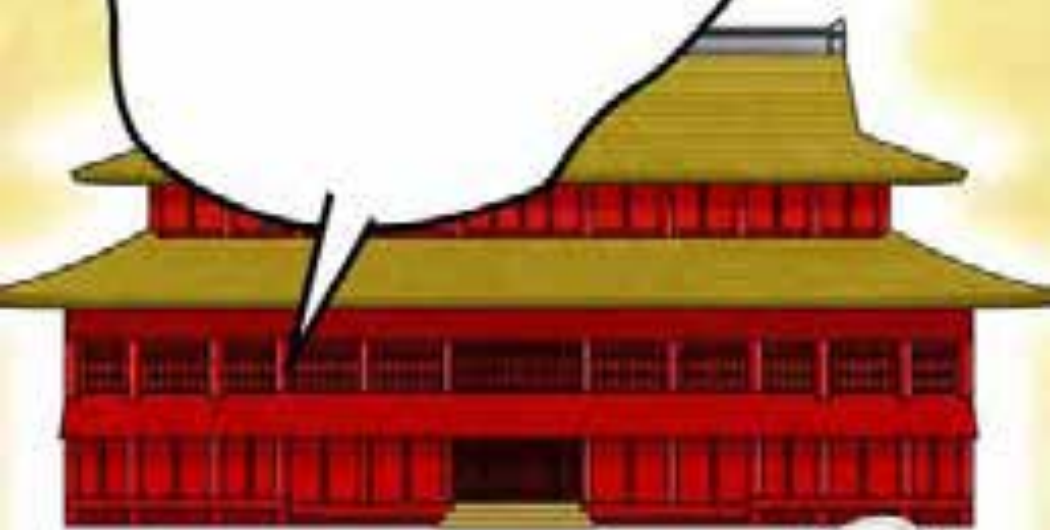
**And it wasn't there when
the Seiden Main Hall was
first built!**




No way!



**The most prominent part
of the Seiden Main Hall
wasn't even there!?**





**We don't know
for sure,**




but it's likely that the karahafu was first built around 300 years ago.



Really?
I didn't know
that.





Originally, it was a
small karahafu with
two pillars,

but it was later changed to a large one with four pillars!



The architectural term
"karahafu" is written using a
character



**so the character was changed to a
more auspicious one read "Karahafu"!**



So the pronunciation
Karahafu is exclusive to
Shuri Castle!



しゅりじょうせいでん

首里城正殿のヒミツ

Secrets about the Seiden
Main Hall of Shuri Castle

から は ふ ひ みつ

唐玻豊の秘密②

The Secrets of the Karahafu
Part 2



**There are so many
different patterns on
the Karahafu!**



**There are lots of patterns on
the white walls of Karahafu!**



Is there any
meaning to the
patterns?





**The flaming orb in the middle
is known as a flaming jewel!**



**It's a treasure orb, and it's said
that it will grant you
any wish if you manage to catch it!**



Wow!
I want one!






**Two dragons are
fighting over the orb,**



**one with its mouth open, and
the other with its mouth closed!**



**Well, if it can grant any wish, it's
no wonder they're fighting over it!**



**Dragons are also
water deities,**



**so they've brought with them many
auspicious clouds that bring rain!**



The clouds are
so colorful
and gorgeous!

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せいでんにかい　ぎよしよへんがく

正殿二階の御書扁額

ちゅうざん　せい　ど

『中山世土』

Chuzan Seido: The Inscribed
Plaque on the Second Floor of
the Seiden Main Hall



**This plaque reads "Chuzan Seido,"
and it's displayed on the second
floor of the Seiden Main Hall.**



What does it mean?



**It's an inscription
bestowed by the
Chinese emperor.**



甲山世

**It means that the Ryukyuans
shall reign over the land of
Chuzan for generations!**



中 山 世 上



**Chuzan is another
name for Ryukyu!**



中世土





山世土

The yellow color is beautiful!



平成の扁額復元

中山世土

During the Heisei era, it was thought to have been painted red.



平成の扁額復元

中山世土

But a diary from the Ryukyu Kingdom
era describing the making of
the emperor's gift



平成の扁額復元




令和の扁額復元



revealed that it was
originally painted yellow!





**There is one other
change from the
Heisei era!**

Can you
spot it?

山世土




世山



Hmm... What
could it be?



世山



There seem to be
more dragons than
before.

世

Great catch!





The paintings
used to feature
six dragons,





**but this time, nine engraved dragons
have been placed around the frame!**





It's so...
extravagant!

中世土

There were three
plaques in the Seiden
Main Hall of

the 18th century,



中 山 世 土

輯 瑞 球 陽

永 祚

which served as
the model for
restoration!



中 山 世 土

輯 瑞 球 陽

永 作

When the Seiden Main Hall is restored, the Chuzan Seido plaque



中 山 世 土

輯 瑞 球 洪

永 祚

will be put up first,
and then the other
two will be made!



So there's still more to look forward to after the Seiden Main Hall is completed!

