

# “The Great Demon King of Japan”: 75th Emperor Sutoku’s Legacy

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# Three Major Vengeful Spirits in Japan



**Taira no Masakado**

- **75th Emperor Sutoku** 崇徳天皇 (1119-1164)  
Lost the political battle and exiled to Shikoku
- **Taira no Masakado** 平將門 (903-940)  
killed after declaring independence from Japan as the 'new emperor'
- **Sugawara no Michizane** 菅原道真 (845-903)  
demoted to Kyushu due to slander



72th Emperor Shirakawa



73th Emperor Horikawa



74th Emperor Toba



75th Emperor Sutoku



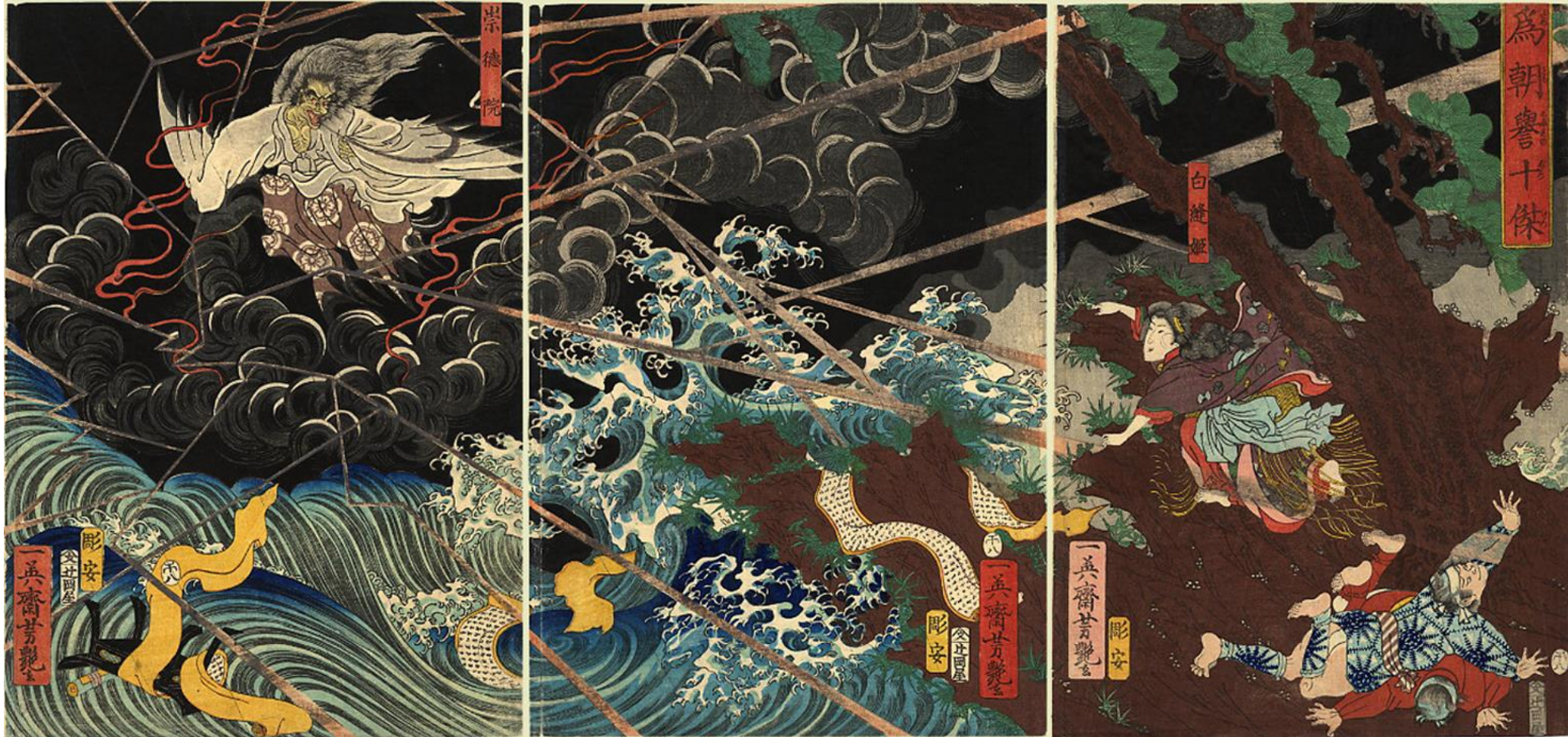
77th Go-Shirakawa



76th Emperor Konoe

# Imperial Family in the 11-12 Century (Late Heian Period)





Scary figure of Emperor Sutoku in *ukiyo-e*

# Did Emperor Sutoku cause misfortune events?

- 20th anniversary - Battle of Dan-no-ura

## <Medieval>

- 100th anniversary year - Mongol invasions of Japan
- 200th anniversary year - Northern and Southern Courts period
- 300th anniversary year - Ōnin War
- 400th anniversary year - Eiroku Incident

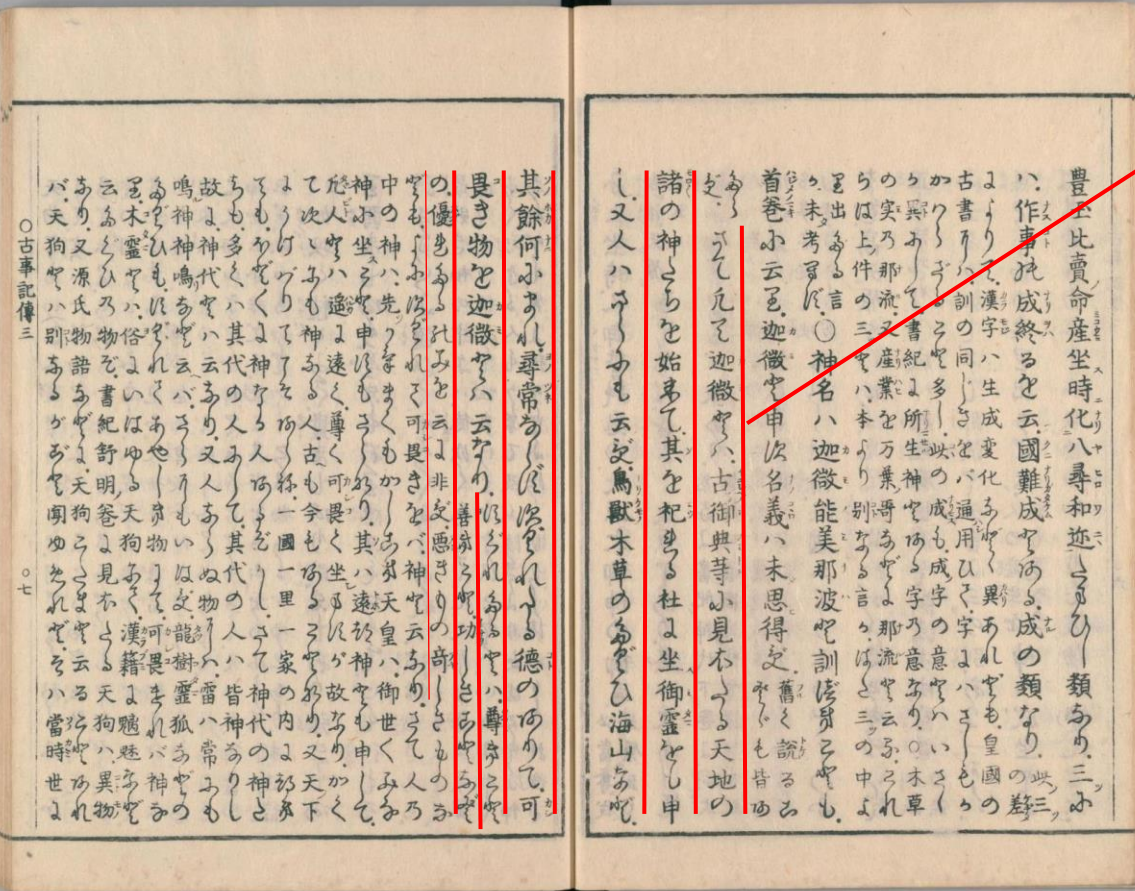
## <Early Modern>

- 500th anniversary year - Great Fire of Meireki
- 600th anniversary year - Hōreki Incident
- 700th anniversary year - Kinmon Incident



# What is the Definition of *kami* 神 in Shinto?

“*Kami* are the deities in heaven and earth in mythology, or spirits enshrined in Shinto shrines. Not to mention human beings, birds, animals, plants, oceans, mountains, and whatever else is uncommonly great and rare are called *kami*. The meaning of great is not necessarily limited to what is precious, excellent, good or meritorious. **Even the wicked and the suspicious are *kami*, if they are powerful or rare.**”



→ Devil and Satan also can be *kami* if they are great.

# Establishment of Shiramine Grand Shrine



**Shiramine Grand Shrine in Kyoto**  
**白峯神宮**

- Established 1868
- Enshrines 75th Emperor Sutoku and 47th Emperor Jun'nin
- Praying will bring people successful for sports
- Emperor Meiji dispatched an imperial envoy to Emperor Sutoku's Imperial mausoleum to announce the establishment of the shrine **on the day before his enthronement** (the anniversary of Emperor Sutoku's death).

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Thank you for your attention

ご清聴ありがとうございました