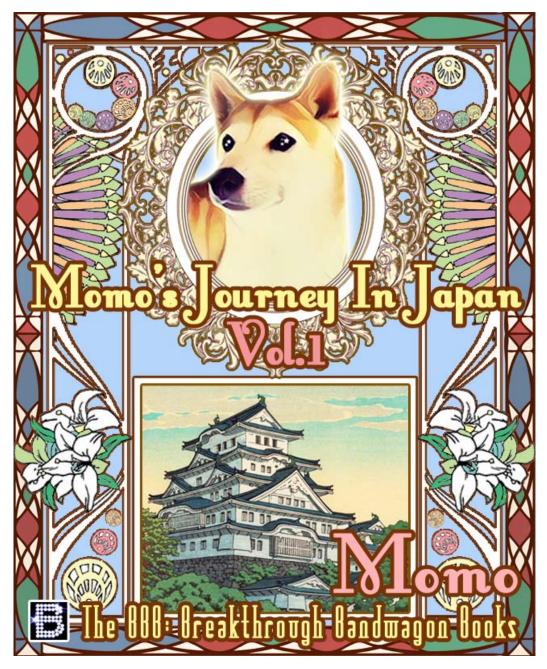
Momo's Journey In Japan Vol.1



Written by Momo

Translated by Tanya

Cover design by Tanya

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The BBB website http://thebbb.net/



Momo Author Page
http://thebbb.net/cast/momo.html

0. Prologue



After the two-year journey to visit the World Heritage Sites on the globe, Momo finally got back to Japan, her home country.

She was warmly welcomed by Tanya and her mother at Tokyo International Airport (also known as Haneda Airport).

Momo felt the atmosphere in Tokyo became more bustling than that in the past.

The city seemed to have attracted more and more visitors from abroad since it was chosen as the host city of 2020 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"Hey, Momo. Do you have any place you want to visit around Tokyo?"

Of course, it is the places related to the World Heritage Sites.

Tanya brought Momo to a skyscraper in Kasumigaseki, the center of the Japanese government bureaucracy.

"Here is the Ministry of the Environment. It has been decided which natural heritage in Japan should be recommended as a World Heritage Site."

While listening to Tanya's explanation, Momo was looking up at the towering structure.



Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (KANKYO-SHO)





After visiting the Ministry of the Environment, Tanya and Momo headed for the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

The agency, also located in Kasumigaseki, seemed to have a plan to relocate to Kyoto in the near future.

Office for World Cultural Heritage was in the building.

Tanya explained to Momo regarding it.

"Council for Cultural Affairs conducted by the agency regularly decides which cultural heritage in Japan should be recommended as a World Heritage Site."

Momo was so excited because she made a pilgrimage to sacred places in the history of Japanese World Heritage Sites.

"Tanya, take my picture with the building! It's so cool!"



Agency for Cultural Affairs (BUNKA-CHO)

【Address】3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN
【ZIP】100-8959
【TEL】+81- (0) 3-5253-4111 (Reception)

【TEL】 +81-(0)3-5253-4111(Receptio 【INQUIRY】https://inquiry.bunka.go.jp/

[URL] http://www.bunka.go.jp/english/



1. National Museum of Western Art



One day she was visiting the National Museum of Western Art in Ueno, Tokyo.

Momo heard on the news that the National Museum of Western Art would be newly listed as a World Heritage Sites at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, which is being held in Istanbul, Turkey, since July 10th, 2016.

It seemed that it would be decided in the evening of July 15th or in the morning of July 16th (Turkey time).

Since there is a time difference of six hours between Istanbul and Tokyo, Momo would be sleeping at the time.

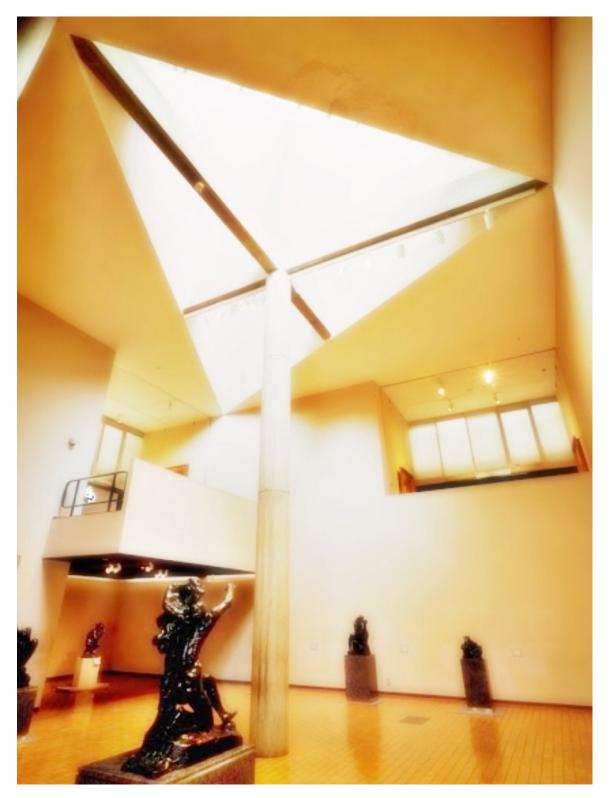
She was interested in the museum and it was the reason why she visited here.

Compared to the scorching sun outside, it was very cool and comfortable inside the building.

"That guy of bronze statue over there looks as if it's too hot for him to stand up."

Everybody, take care of heat stroke!





Despite the fact that the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee was temporarily suspended due to the coup attempt in Istanbul, Turkey, the National Museum of Western Art (in Ueno, Tokyo) had been newly listed as a World Heritage Site.

Momo was so happy that she had decided to visit Ueno again and explore inside the building.

According to the explanation of a volunteer guide, pillars mainly supported the roof with few walls.

The particular structure made spacious rooms and this feature seemed to be called "Pilotis". If Momo introduced Pilotis to her house, could she spread a huge *futon* (bedding) to enjoy sunbathing? *The sunshine is so scorching, though* ...





The National Museum of Western Art

(Kokuritsu Seiyo Bijutsu-kan)

[Address] 7-7 Ueno-koen, Taito-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN

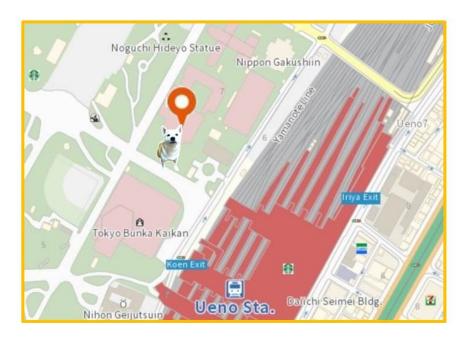
【ZIP】110-0007

[TEL] +81- (0) 3-5777-8600 (Hello Dial)

[FAX] +81- (0) 3-3828-5135

【E-mail】info@nmwa.go.jp

[URL] http://www.nmwa.go.jp/en/



2. Ogasawara Islands



Momo and Tanya got on a ferry named Ogasawara-maru from Takeshiba Port, Tokyo, to the Ogasawara islands, one of the World Heritage Sites in Japan.

The archipelago on the Pacific Ocean also belongs to Tokyo Prefecture, but in fact, it is located about no less than about 1,000 kilometers from Tokyo Bay.

It took 24 hours to get there by ferry.

When they finally reached Chichijima, the largest island among the archipelago, Momo was wrapped up in the comfortable, sea breeze.

Tanya looked high-spirited and said, "Hey Momo, let's enjoy swimming together!"

Bowkay (Okay)! Bow's (Now's) the time to bow (show) my dog paddle, my specialty, to Tanya!



Q

Takeshiba Passenger Ship Terminal

(Takeshiba Kyakusen Terminal)

[Address] 1-16-3 Kaigan, Minato-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN

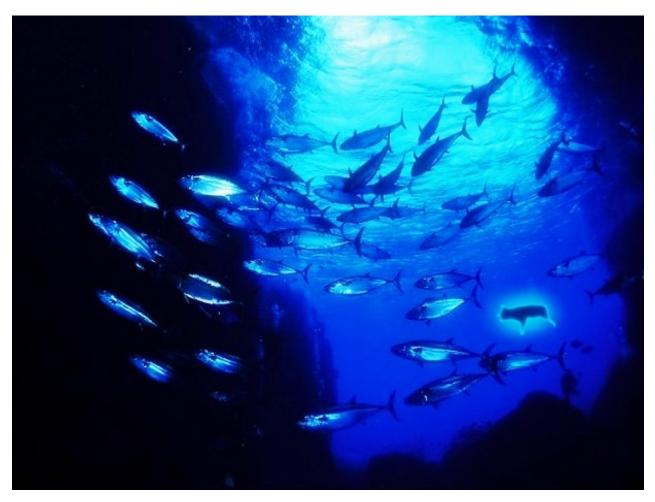
【ZIP】110-0007

[TEL] +81- (0) 3-3432-8081 (Main Phone)

[FAX] +81- (0) 3-3432-8082

[URL] http://www.tptc.co.jp/en/c_terminal/takeshiba





Momo and Tanya were visiting Yomejima, an uninhabitant island in the Ogasawara archipelago.

It took an hour by boat from Chichijima to Yomejima.

They enjoyed swimming together in the beautiful ocean.

Momo was absorbed in showing her dog paddle to her companion and tried diving to the deeper part of the sea.

At the time, a large family of tunas came and surrounded Momo.

Tunas were swimming very fast and circled round and round.

"Bowwow! I feel as if I were in a washing machine. So fun!"





Momo and Tanya were exploring Chichijima, the largest island among the Ogasawara islands.

They met animals and plants living apparently only in this island.

The scenery of the great nature was completely different from those of urban areas in Tokyo.

Momo enjoyed talking with a Mandarina chichijimana, a snail inhabiting here.

At the time, a green lizard appeared from somewhere and began threatening the snail with it brutal gaze.

The snail told Momo that the lizard named Green anole seemed to bully snails and cicadas in the island.

Momo courageously said to the small villain.

"He-hey you, d-d-do not bully my friend!"





Momo and Tanya were walking through a forest in Chichijima, the largest island among the Ogasawara islands.

They were heading for a very famous cliff named Chihiro Rock, also known as Heart Rock.

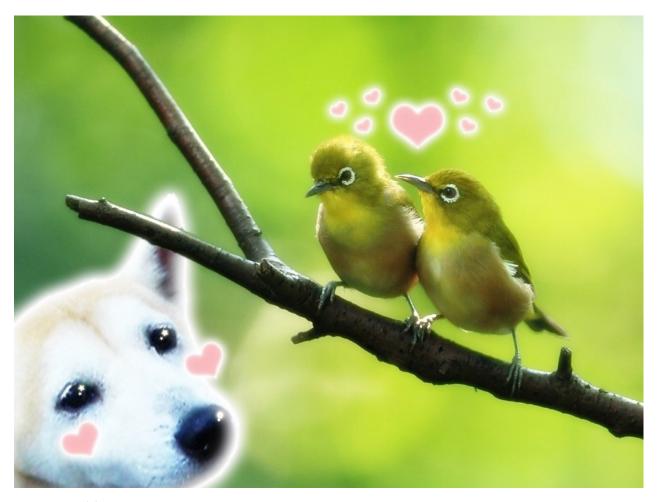
In the dense forest like a jungle, they found concrete ruins, artificial shelters, and broken jeeps.

According to Tanya, the out-of-place objects were the vestiges of the war ended about 70 years ago.

Tanya's home country is Nagasaki, the second atomic-bombed city after Hiroshima.

They put their palms together to gravely pray for world peace.





Momo and Tanya went on board a liner at Chichijima.

After about two hours navigation, they got to Hahajima, the second largest island among the Ogasawara islands.

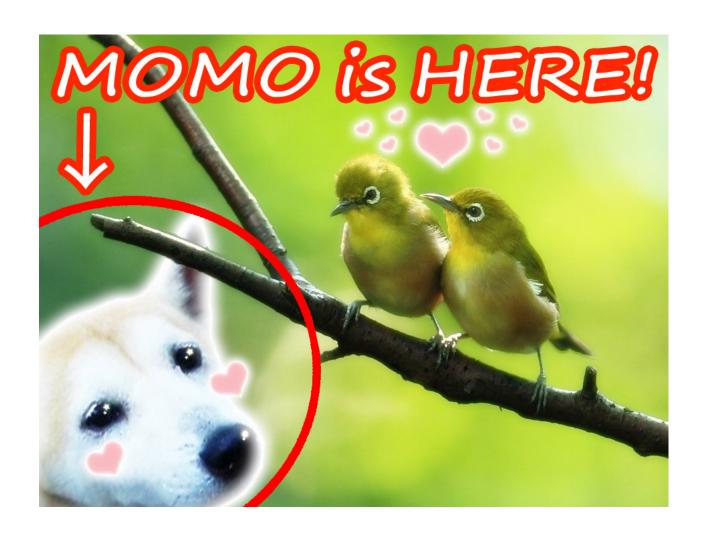
Walking through a dense forest, they heard someone singing lovely somewhere.

Momo and Tanya were lured to the voice and finally encountered cute sisters of Hahajima honeyeater.

The two birds sang a welcome song for them and gave them Papaya.

It seemed to be their favorite fruit.

Momo enjoyed listening to their songs while eating the fruit.





Finally, the last day of the summer vacation had come.

It was also the day when Momo and Tanya had to go back to the homeland.

On her way home, she went on board the same liner named Ogasawara-maru.

Blowing a whistle, the liner slowly took off the coast.

The comfortable sea breeze was blowing in the clear blue sky.

The Ogasawara islands is a really great World Heritage Site!, Momo thought.

Momo waved to the islands in farewell.

She was repeatedly shaking her tail as well as her paws.



Ogasawara Islands

(Ogasawara-Shoto)

[Address] Ogasawara Village Office Aza Nishimachi, Chichijima, Ogasawara-mura, Tokyo, JAPAN

[ZIP] 100-2101

[TEL] +81- (0) 4998-2-3111 (Main Phone)

【URL】Ogasawara-mura/



3. Horyu-ji and Hokki-ji temples



Momo was visiting the Horyu-ji temple in Nara Prefecture for the first time in two years.

Nara was an ancient capital of Japan and a very popular area for tourists as well as Kyoto.

The bonzes (Buddhist priests and monks) told Momo that the Horyu-ji temple was built by Prince Shotoku and Empress Suiko no less than 1,500 years ago.

She already learned the fact that Kondo (sanctuary hall) and Gojunoto (five-story pagoda) were the oldest wooden buildings existing in the world.

Despite the many disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, and fires, they had been standing for many centuries.

Its dignity rendered Momo speechless and deeply fascinated her.





Momo took a walk on the premises of the Horyu-ji temple and found an outstanding octagonal structure. One bonze passing by Momo noticed her interest in the building.

"Hey, Momo. Do you know the building? It is called Yumedono, literally meaning Hall of Dreams."

According to him, Yumedono seemed to be built for ancient people to see the deceased inside it.

They believed the deceased often appeared in their dreams.

Momo was thinking about her biological parents, although she didn't remember them at all.

"I wish I could see my parents in Yumedono ..."





Thanks to the kindness of some bonzes in the Horyu-ji temple, Momo was exceptionally allowed to see the secret statue enshrined in the Yumedono building.

There was a weathered, yet splendid statue.

"Momo, here is the holly statue named Guze-kanzeon-bosatsu."

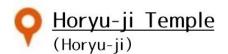
They said it was 178.8 centimeters tall, supposedly the same height as Prince Shotoku.

In fact, Momo's height was about 38 centimeters, the one-fifth of the statue.

She was standing on tiptoe and stretching herself but didn't even reach the chest of the statue.

"I understand how tall Price Shotoku was!"









- O Kondo
- O Five-Storey Pagoda
- O Yume-dono (Hall of Dreams)



One day she was visiting the Hokki-ji temple (also known as Houki-ji), one of the World Heritage Sites in Nara Prefecture.

This temple seemed to be built as a nunnery.

While walking around the premises, Momo found colorful cosmoses proudly blooming there.

"Bowwow! What a heavenly flower garden!"

In the comfortable fragrance, Momo felt she especially loved pink cosmoses.

It was because pink was called "momo" in Japanese.





When Momo was staying in Nara Prefecture, she witnessed fire drills being conducted at several famous temples such as the Horyu-ji temple and the Hokki-ji temple.

According to the people joining it, fire drills had been widely conducted at many temples in this country after the murals in the Kondo (sanctuary hall) of the Horyu-ji temple were destroyed by fire in 1949.

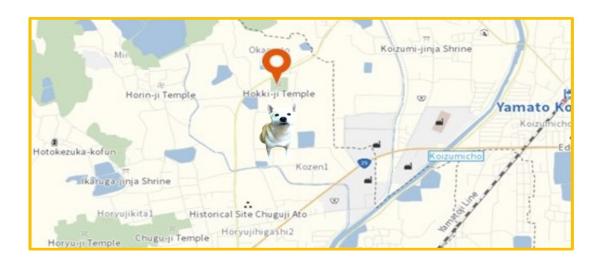
Once a fire starts, ancient temples in Japan would be burned down because they are all made of wood.

Momo was really moved by the existing murals in the Horyu-ji temple, so she was worried about its safety and joined the fire drill.

"Hi-no-yojin! (Be careful with fire!) Hi-no-yojin!"



Hoki-ji Temple (Hoki-ji)



4. Himeji Castle



One day Momo was visiting Himeji Castle, the World Heritage Site in Hyogo Prefecture.

The last time she had visited here was a little before the start of her world travel.

During her two-year journey, the remodeling of Himeji Castle was finished.

The recreated original figure was remarkably white, which was impressive enough to surprise Momo.

"Wow! Bow (How) white the original castle was!"

Momo already knew the nickname of this castle was "White Egret Castle".

But recently, it seemed that it was even called "Too White Castle".

Surely, it was dazzlingly white, which made Momo's face look strange.





Himeji Castle was so huge that Momo felt as if it were a labyrinth or something like that.

At the large park in front of the main castle, many people take their photographs with the castle.

"Hey, Momo. Let's take pictures with us!"

Momo was invited to join and had them take her pictures several times.

When looking up at the sky, a few birds were flying and they seemed to feel comfortable.

Momo shook her paws to the birds, saying, "Hey, I'm here! Can you see me?"

If she were a bird, it would be marvelous to look down at the castle from the sky high.





Himeji Caste was really huge enough to make Momo feel as if it were endless.

While joyfully running through the castle, Momo was spoken to by many visitors.

"Hey, Momo. Is it a Halloween costume? Where did you find it? So cute!"

Although they praised her costume, she herself couldn't see it, especially the picture on her back.

She was sad about that.

It was getting a little darker, so Momo had decided to go home because she was afraid of ghosts of the night.

Trick or treat?

In this situation, rather, trip or treat?

It was a difficult choice, but ... Momo often preferred a treat to a trip.





While working around Himeji Castle, Momo found a weathered, ancient well.

People passing by Momo told her a scary story.

They said a maid named Okiku had been forced to bear the blame for a false charge, murdered, and thrown into the well.

The accusation was that she carelessly lost a precious dish that her master cherished.

Since then, the woman's grudge voice counting dishes had been echoing from inside the well during the night.

"The fiiiirst diiiish ... The secoooond diiiish ... The thiiiird diiiish ..."

Momo was too scared to stop her shivering.

"As I hear such a story, I won't be able to sleep at night! Scary!"





While leaving Himeji Castle, Momo found an outstanding Japanese garden.

It was illuminated and breathtaking enough to make Momo speechless.

"Bowwow! What a marvelous scenery!"

This garden named Koko-en functioned as a beautiful background of the castle.

The garden itself was not listed as a World Heritage Site, but Momo wanted to regard it as a part of Himeji Castle.

Momo felt as if she were straying into a wonderland.



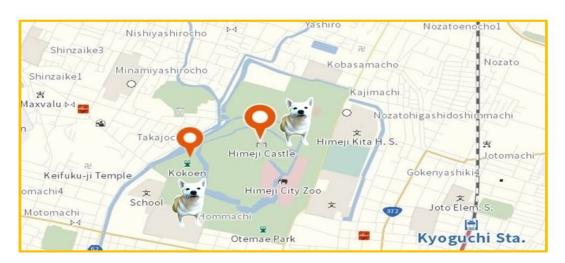
Himeji Castle (Himeji-Jo)

[Address] Himeji Castle Administration Office the North Side of Sannomaru Square in Himeji Castle, 68, Honmachi, Himeji-City, Hyogo-Prefecture, JAPAN

【ZIP】670-0012

【TEL】+81- (0) 79-285-1146 (Main Phone) 【FAX】+81- (0) 79-222-6050

[URL] http://www.city.himeji.lg.jp/guide/castle/



5. Shirakami Sanchi



One day Momo was visiting Shirakami-Sanchi (a mountainous region) for the first time in two years.

It seemed that it was one of the four first-listed World Heritage Sites in Japan.

There were huge forests stretching over Akita and Aomori Prefectures in the Tohoku region.

Momo remembered she had been lost during her previous visit because of the vastness of this area.

She was walking while checking the direction with a map, so as not to get lost again.

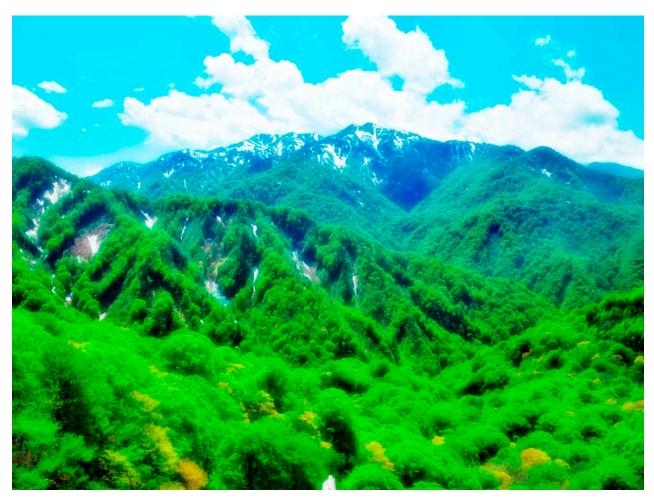
Then, she found a beautiful blue pond deep in the forest.

"Bowwow! What a clear and beautiful pond!!"

She sipped water and was absorbed in playing in the pond.

She seemed to drop the map somewhere and lost her way again ...





Momo managed to get through primeval beech forests and finally reached the place right in front of Mount Shirakami Take.

The green mountains contrasted strikingly with the blue sky.

Momo's breath was white due to the low temperature around here.

The cold, moist air was far clearer than that of Tokyo and it made her feel comfortable.

Suddenly, she was urged to touch the white clouds floating in the sky because it looked like sweet cotton candy.

Momo rose on her hind legs and reached for the sky over and over again.

"Umm ... Can't I make it?"





Momo was appreciating a beautiful mountain stream while walking through Shirakami-Sanchi. Momo got to Oirase River, one of the streams, and quenched her thirst with clear, cold water. Suddenly, a family of sweetfish (or ayu in Japanese) are jumping out from the river.

Then, one female sweetfish invited Momo to swim with them.

"Hey, Momo. Why don't you Join us?"

"Bowwow. It must be fun!"

Momo dived into the water and did a dog paddle that she was good at.

The female sweetfish was swimming faster and faster!

"Bow (How) faaaast she is!!"





When Momo was taking a nap in a beech forest, she heard someone rusting the leaves around her and sprang to her feet in surprise.

Momo looked around and found a boy Japanese serow (Nihon Komoshika in Japanese) walking toward her. He might be more than two times bigger than she.

"Shhhh. I'm now playing hide-and-seek with my friend and looking for a place to hide."

Phew ... You surprised me!

Momo was relieved and dozed off again.

The sunshine was warm and comfortable.





It seemed to snow all night here in Shirakami-Sanchi.

When Momo woke up in a lodge at sunrise, she found the world covered with snow.

Momo sprung out of the lodge and began running with excitement around the snow field.

It was so fun that she forgot the time.

"Ahchoo!!" (sneeze)

Before she knew it, she felt a little cold.

"I will warm myself at a kotatsu (Japanese heating table)!"



Shirakami-Sanchi

(Shirakami-Sanchi)

[Address] Shirakami-Sanchi Visitor Center 61-1, Aza Kanda, Oo-Aza Tashiro, Nishimeya-Mura, Naka-Tsugaru-Gun, Aomori-Prefecture, JAPAN

【ZIP】036-1411

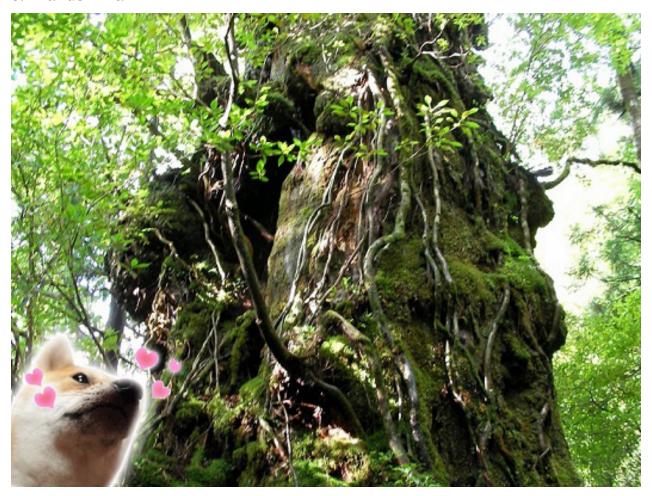
[TEL] +81- (0) 172-85-2810 (Main Phone)

[FAX] +81- (0) 172-85-2833

[E-mail] http://www.experience-shirakami.com/en/contact.html
[URL] http://www.experience-shirakami.com/en/



6. Yakushima



Because of the New Year holiday season, Tokyo International Airport (also known as Haneda Airport) was crowded with people who were coming back to Tokyo from their local home towns or from abroad.

Momo flew from Tokyo to Kagoshima Airport, and then, took a small aircraft to Yakushima.

Yakushima is an isolated island, located southwest to Kyushu (the third largest island in Japan).

Momo was visiting Yakushima for the first time in two years.

"Bow(wow)! It's warmer than expected. The sunshine is comfortable here like a spring!"





Momo was strolling around the forest in the Yakushima island and caught in a shower.

While taking shelter from the rain under a huge cedar tree, she encountered a female Yakushika (a deer inhabiting Yakushima), who seemed to be elder than her.

The Yakushika smiled at Momo, saying, "We can keep our beautiful skins thanks to the all-year-around humid air."

She told her that it rained here about five times than in Tokyo throughout the year.

Can I become as beautiful as her here?





Momo was following the female Yakushika, who stopped and said to her.

"Hey, Momo. Get inside that cedar stump and look upward!"

To her surprise, the sky looked like the shape of the heart.

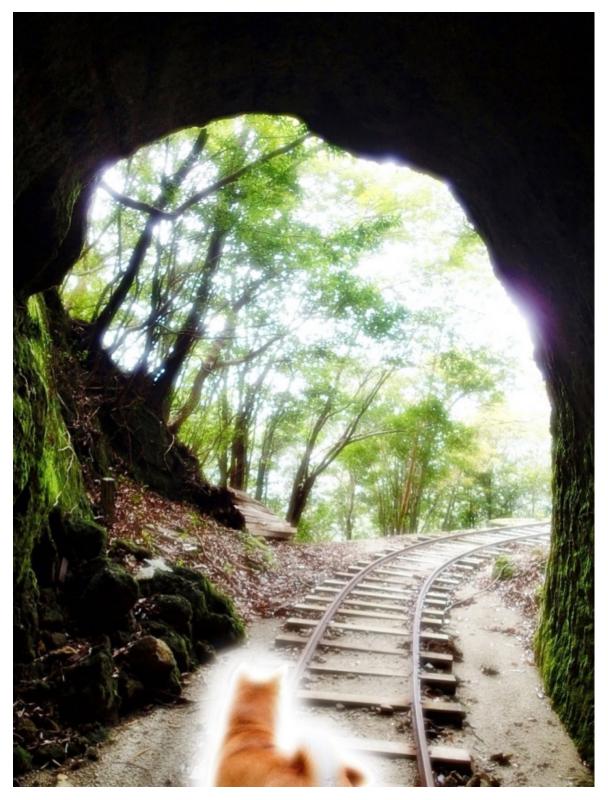
"Wow, lovely!"

The Yakushika told her that it was called "Wilson Kabu" (meaning Wilson's stump).

It seemed to be derived from Dr. Wilson who had once researched this cedar.

It became the memorable moment for her in Yakushima.





The Yakushika brought Momo to a railway track.

She was surprised that the track ran through in the deep forest in Yakushima.

The scenery reminded her of the movie she had once watched with Tanya.

"Bow (Wow)! It looks like 'Stand By Me'!"

It seemed that mine carts used to run on the track to transport Yakusugi (cedars in Yakushima). While walking on the track, Momo felt as if she could listen to the theme tune of the movie "Stand By Me".





It was a fine day after a long time.

Momo was taking a walk on the shore of Yakushima.

She heard the sound like an air horn of a ship in the distance.

The liner which Momo was going to get on seemed to be now approaching The Port of Miyanoura.

That meant the end of Momo's journey in Yakushima.

Which World Heiratge Site will I go to next?

Momo was thrilled by the anticipation of her next adventure.



Yakushima (Yakushima)

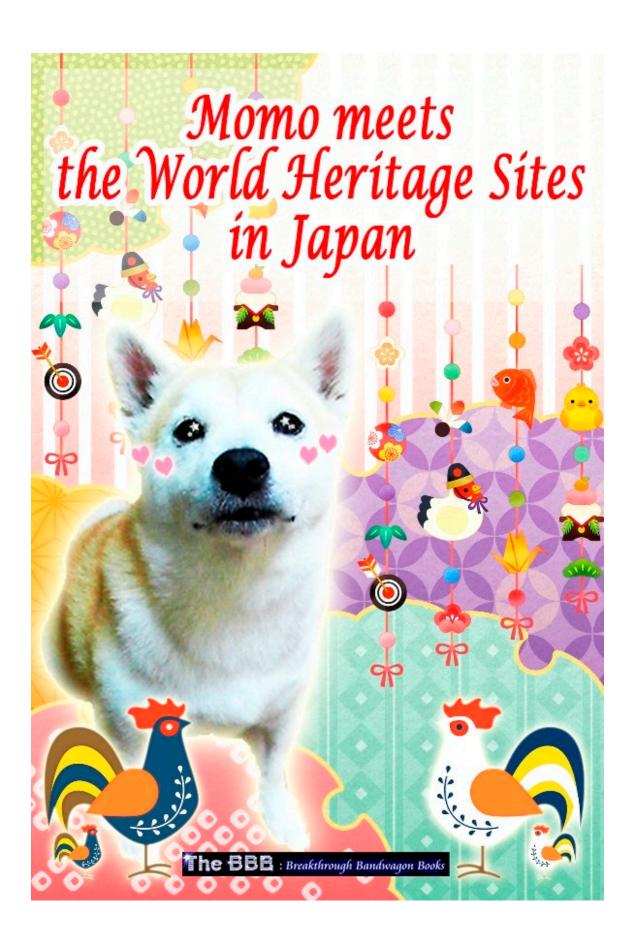


(To be continued to Momo's next adventure.)

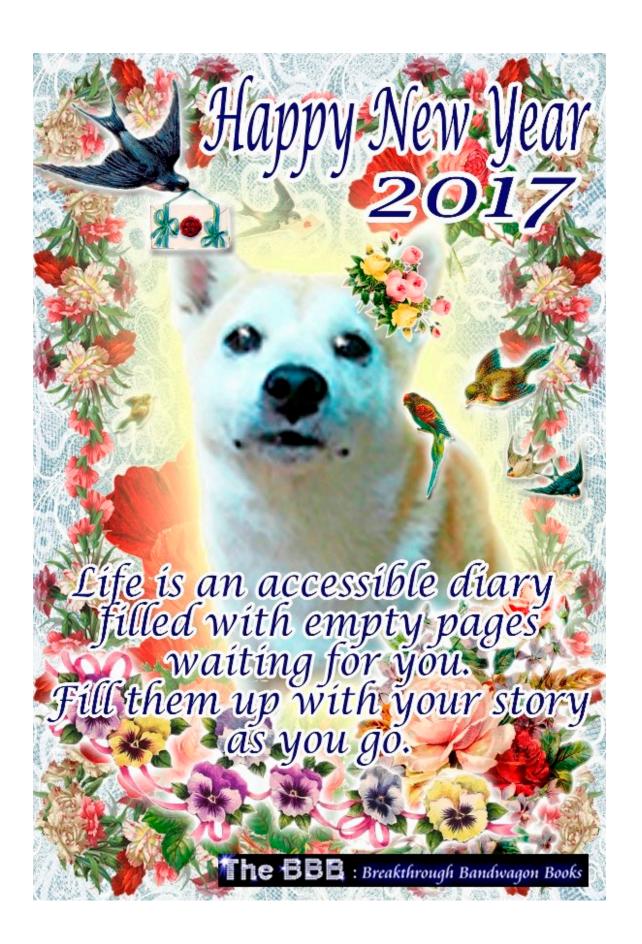
7. Momo's Gallery













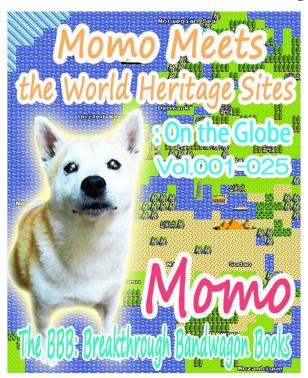
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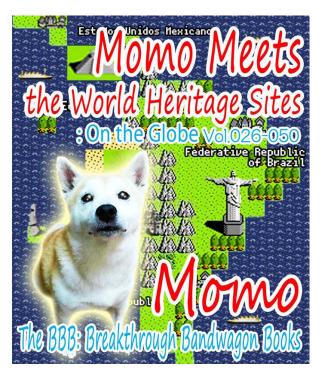
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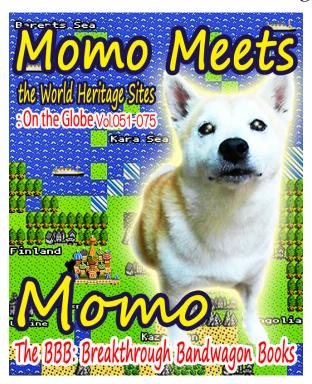


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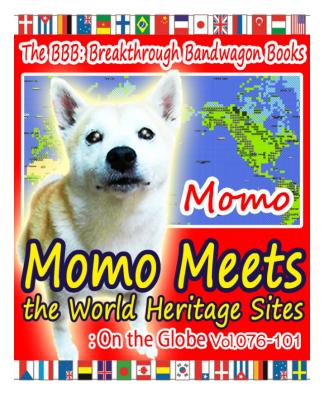


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Momo Meets the World Heritage Sites: On the Globe Vol.051-075 http://thebbb.net/ebooks/momo-meets-the-world-heritage-sites-globe03.html

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