Momo Meets the World Heritage Sites In Japan



Written by Momo

Translated by Tanya

Cover photo by Momo

Cover design by Tanya

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The BBB website http://thebbb.net/



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

Prologue



Momo is a female shiba dog.

Momo didn't remember her parents nor her foster family.

The only thing she remembered was the memory in which she had been shut into the sewage pipe with a chain-locked door.

It was a very cold, tough experience.

She didn't know how many days she had been confined there.

Momo shouted "Help!" countless times.

Neighbors noticed her voice and a policeman cut the chain with a tool and got her out of the sewage pipe.



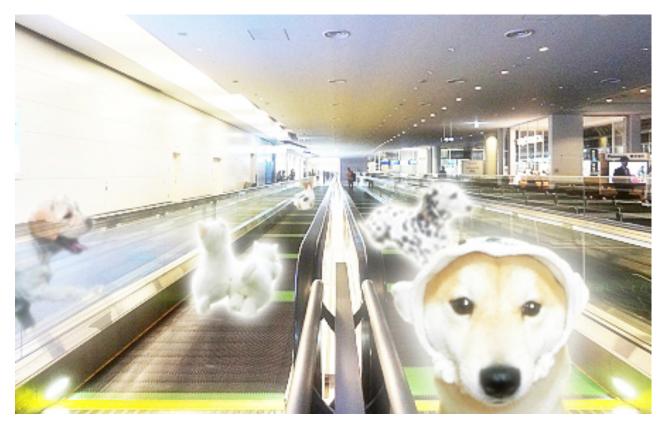
The policeman wrapped her in a warm blanket and brought her to his workplace.

Momo was relieved.

However, she couldn't live there.

The policeman said to Momo, "You would be brought to a place called Center in four days and then to Heaven."

Momo didn't know where Heaven was, but she seemed to be brought to there while sleeping.



The following day, an undergraduate girl student named Tanya came to see Momo.

Tanya said she could bring Momo to her home.

Although the policeman said it would happen in four days, Momo thought Tanya's home might be Heaven he had mentioned.

Momo thanked the policeman, said goodbye to him and left there, being held by Tanya.

It was so warm in Tanya's arms that Momo dozed off and fell asleep.



When she woke up, Momo was in Tanya's home.

It wasn't very big, but a joyful home where Tanya's mother lived together.

A very comfortable bed and towels as well as lots of water and food were prepared for Momo.

As the policeman said, Momo seemed to be brought to Heaven while sleeping.

Then, Momo became a member of Tanya's family.



Some time passed after Momo had became a member of Tanya's family.

Although Tanya invited Momo to take a walk outside, Momo didn't want to go out because she was afraid of the outside world.

One day, Tanya showed one book to Momo.

"These are the World Heritage Sites, very wonderful places in the world."

Momo was so thrilled by these beautiful sceneries.

"I really want to visit the World Heritage Sites!"

Momo decided to visit the outside world with courage.



Momo Meets the World Heritage Sites In Japan

1. Mount Fuji



One day she was visiting Mount Fuji, the most famous mountain in Japan.

Momo heard that the mountain was listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites (selected in 2013).

She became more and more interested in the World Heritage Sites.

[&]quot;The water around here is crystal clear and taste so good!"



2. Ryoan-ji



One day she was visiting Ryoan-ji Temple, one of the World Heritage Sites in Kyoto.

"The garden covered with snow is really beautiful!"

Trying to leave her footprints there, Momo was scolded by a bonze (Buddhist monk).

"I'm sorry ..."



3. Yakushima



One day she was visiting Yakushima Island, one of the Word Heritage Sites in Japan.

Momo heard that this island has a lot of rain throughout the year.

But fortunately, it's sunny today.

She felt comfortable in the beautiful sunshine.

Yaaawwwn ···

Good night.



4. Shirakawa-go



One day she was visiting Shirakawa-go, one of the Word Heritage Sites in Japan.

There are many lovely, Gassho-style houses here in Shirakawa-go.

Large snowflakes began falling.

"I will warm myself at an irori fireplace in a house!"



5. Itsuku-shima Shrine



One day she was visiting Itsuku-shima Shrine, one of the Word Heritage Sites in Japan.

Dear Deer living near here told Momo that they could walk to the torii (Shinto gate) standing on the water at low tide.

They took a picture together, but Momo carelessly closed her eyes ...



6. Ogasawara Islands



One day she traveled 25 hours and 30 minutes by ship from Tokyo to Ogasawara Islands, one of the Word Heritage Sites in Japan.

It was as warm as a southern country and its sandy beach and blue sea were very beautiful.

Momo heard that green anoles (scary lizards) recently threatened insects, butterflies, and snails.

It is hard for Momo to deal with lizards.



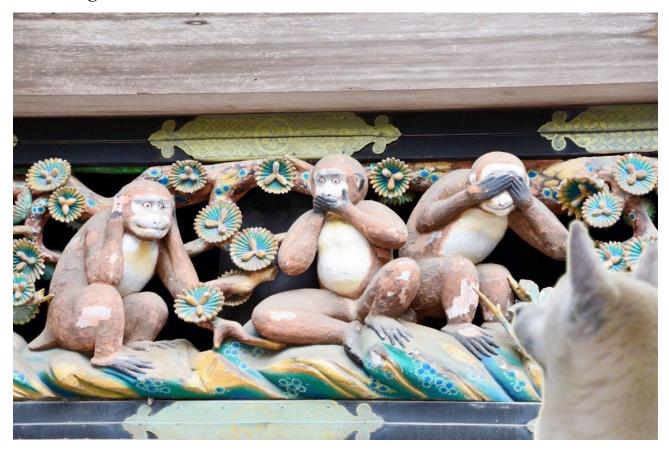
7. Horyu-ji



One day she was visiting Horyu-ji Temple in Nara, one of the World Heritage Sites in Japan.
Momo heard that this temple was the oldest surviving wooden building in this country.
As she got through the huge gate, two guardian statues gave her a very scary look.
Momo was in trouble because she had to see them again when she was leaving.
Help!



8. Tosho-gu



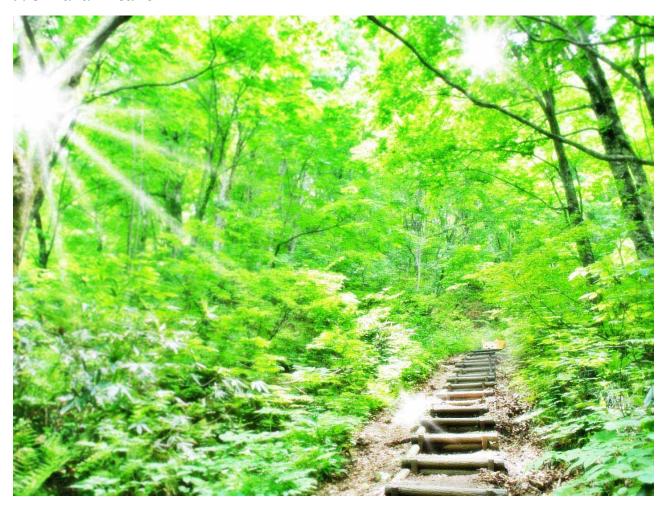
One day she was visiting Tosho-gu Shrine in Nikko, one of the World Heritage Sites in Japan.

Momo met three monkeys there.

Japanese people say dogs and monkeys are on bad terms with each other like "cats and dogs" in English. But Momo would love to be their friend.



9. Shirakami-sanchi



One day she was visiting Shirakami-sanchi (a mountainous region), one of the World Heritage Sites in Japan.

This area stretches over Akita and Aomori Prefectures and its natural environment is well preserved.

The old-growth forests here are surrounded by lush green atmosphere.

The region was so extensive that Momo didn't even know where she was walking now.

It seemed like Momo got lost ...



10. Shuri Castle



One day she was visiting Shuri Castle in Okinawa Prefecture, one of the World Heritage Sites in Japan. Momo found several friends, whose figures somewhat resembled her, on the tiled roof of the castle. They told her that they all had the same name "Shisa" and protected the building from the evil. Shisas, you guys are so cool!

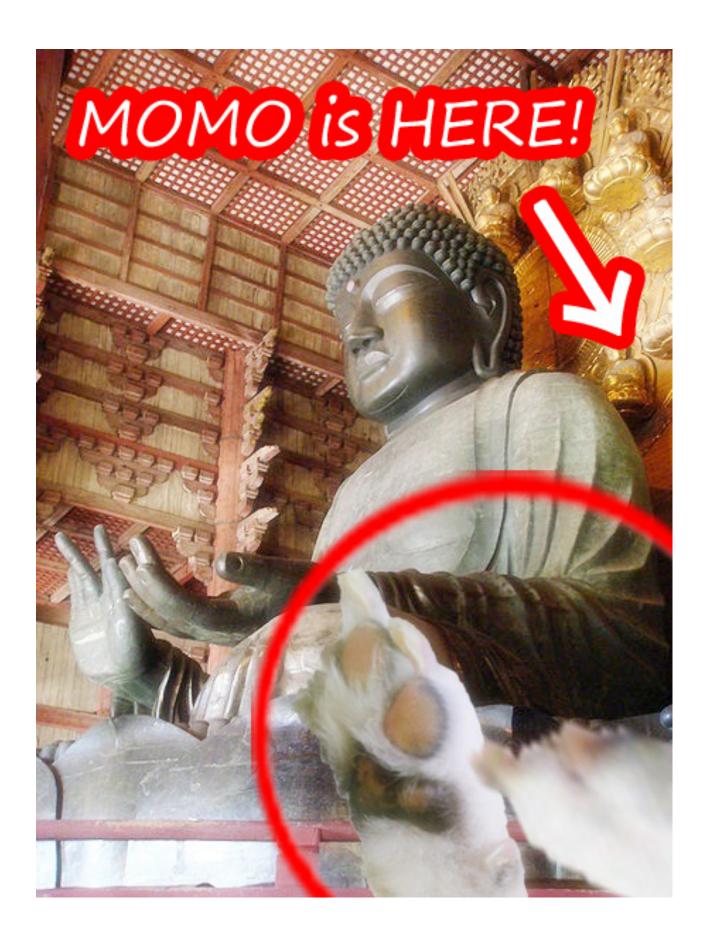


11. Todai-ji



One day she was visiting Todai-ji Temple in Nara, one of the World Heritage Sites in Japan.

Ancient Japanese seemed to believe that Daibutsu (a giant statue of Buddha) protected general public from diseases and poverty.
Momo heard that by the way Daibutsu positioned its hands, it made people's dreams come true.
So, she tried positioning her hands in the same way.
Do you think she made it?



12. Shiretoko



One day she was visiting the peninsula of Shiretoko in Hokkaido Prefecture, one of the World Heritage Sites in Japan.

It was very cold here on a drift ice field.

Momo met a large family of Steller's Sea Eagle.

They told her that they lived in Shiretoko only in winter and would move to Russia after getting warm.

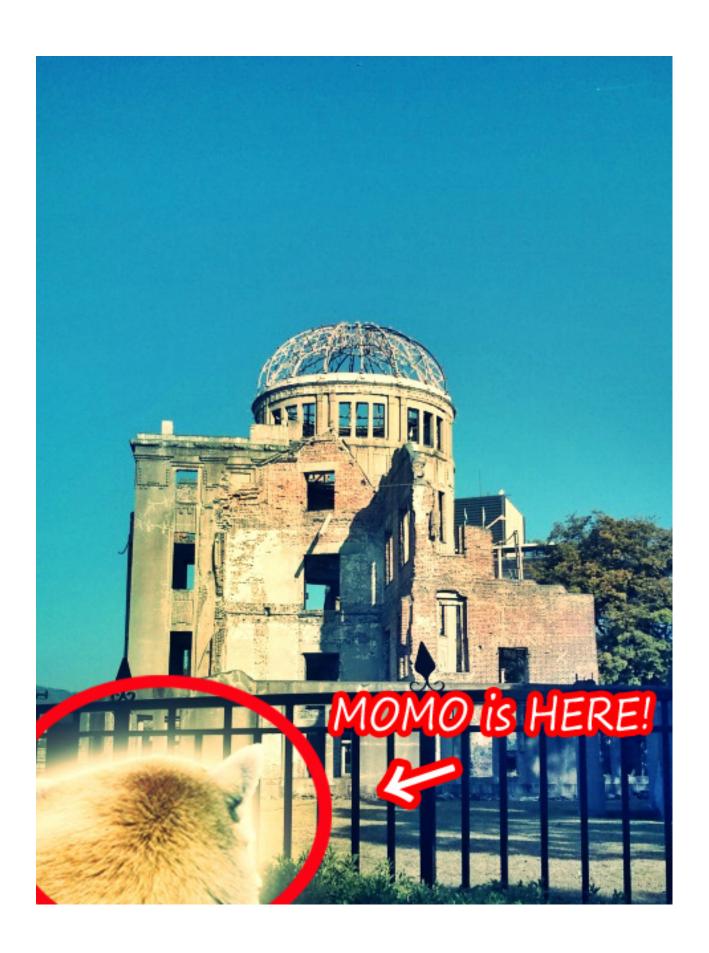
Momo hoped that she would see them again in the next winter.



13. Hiroshima Peace Memorial



One day she was visiting Hiroshima Peace Memorial in Hiroshima Prefecture, one of the World Heritage Sites in Japan.
As she was looking up at the ruined building, Momo started feeling sad for some reason.
Momo decided to visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum to know what had happened here.



14. Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine



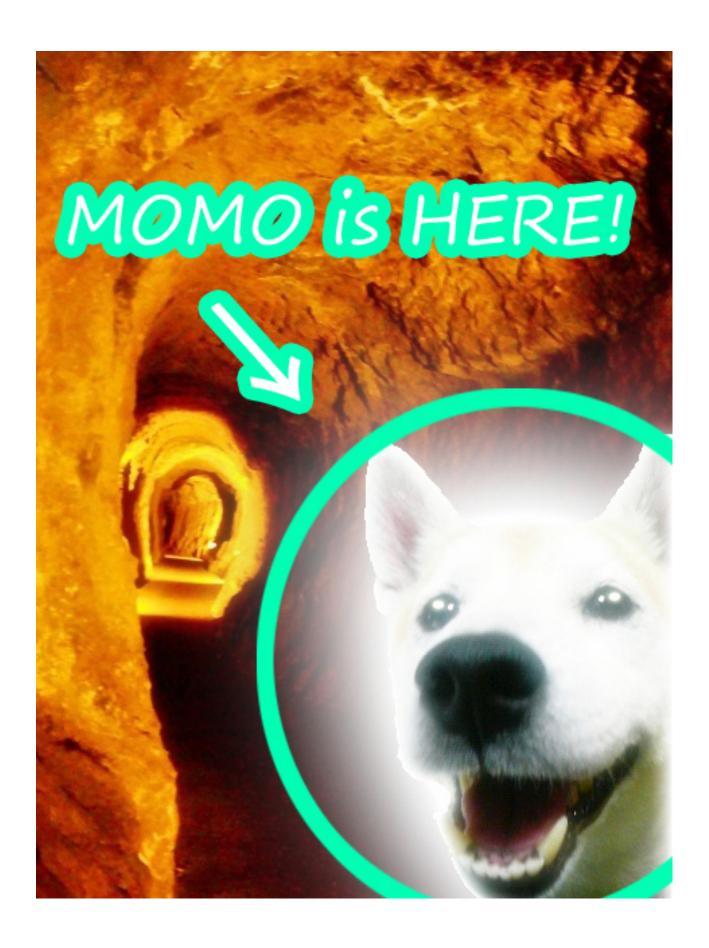
One day she was visiting Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine in Shimane Prefecture, one of the World Heritage Sites in Japan.

Although the silver mine is now unused, it used to produce as many as one-third of silver production in the whole world about four centuries ago.

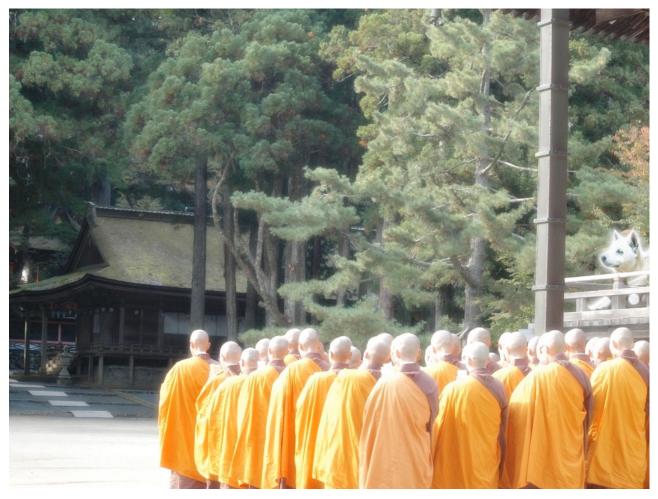
Momo entered one of its passages named Mabu, which ancient workers had dug by hand.

She, too, was very good at digging but surprised by the fact that there were no less than 600 Mabus here in total!

What an amazing maze!



15. Koya-san



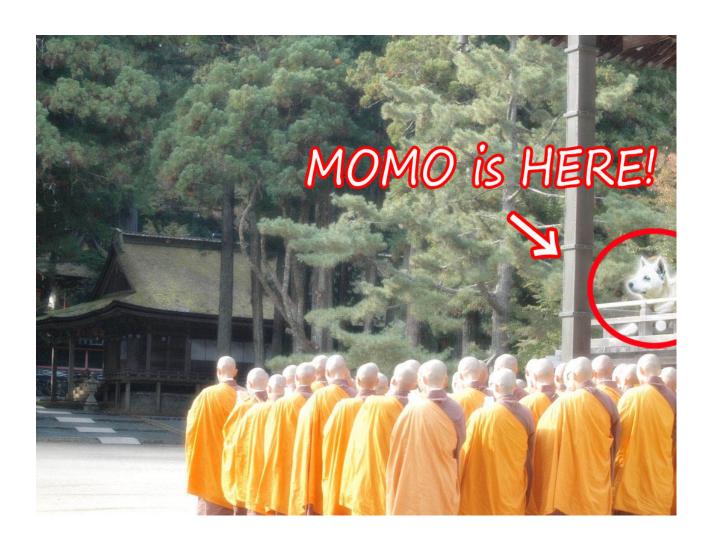
One day she was visiting Koya-san (Mount Koya) in Wakayama Prefecture, one of the World Heritage Sites in Japan.

Momo met lots of Buddhist monks there.

She heard that this mountain had been a sacred site for Tantric Buddhism (She didn't know what the word meant, though).

They told her that not only Buddhist monks but also people worshipping kami (Japanese gods) or the mountain itself also live there.

Momo thought she would be a friend with diverse groups of people.



16. Hiraizumi



One day she was visiting Chuson-ji Temple in Hiraizumi (Iwate Prefecture), one of the World Heritage Sites in Japan.

Momo heard that there had been a golden chamber in Chuson-ji.

Before entering the sacred place, Momo washed her hands and rinsed her mouth as a person serving in the temple guided her.

First, her left hand. Then, her right hand, and her mouth ... Is that correct?

Oh, shouldn't I drink the ladle of water?

Momo was a little confused.



17. Himeji Castle



One day she was visiting Himeji Castle in Hyogo Prefecture, one of the World Heritage Sites in Japan.

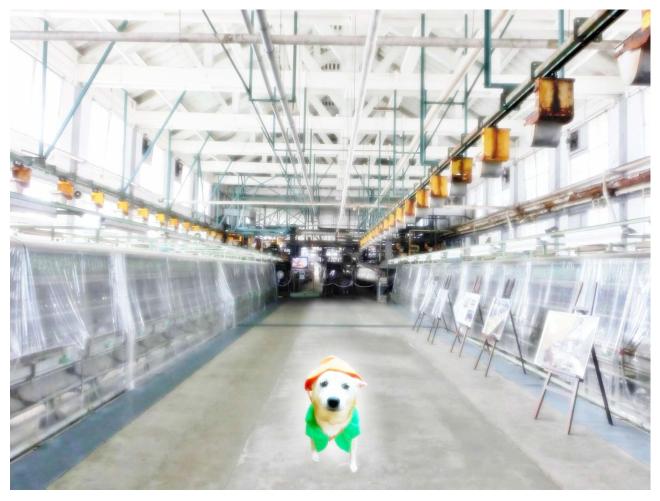
They said that it had also been called Egret Castle because of its beautiful figure like an egret.

Finally, Momo had finished visiting all of the World Heritage Sites in Japan (as of May, 2014).

Overlooking the scenery from the top of Himeji Castle, Momo thought she would fly away from this country like an egret, and then would visit the World Heritage Sites in the world outside Japan.



18. Tomioka Silk Mill



One day she was visiting Tomioka Silk Mill in Gunma Prefecture, one of the World Heritage Sites in Japan.

Momo heard that people working here used to make silk from cocoons of the larvae of silkworms and export it decades ago.

Although Momo loved glittering fabrics, she hadn't known silk before.

As she touched it, the smooth feel of it made her comfortable.

She loved it so much that she bought it as her souvenir.



Epilogue



Then, Momo first traveled 18 World Heritage Sites in Japan.

Her next destinations are 964 World Heritage Sites in the world outside Japan.

In order to take off for the World Heritage Sites outside Japan, Momo came to Tokyo International Airport (also known as Haneda Airport) .

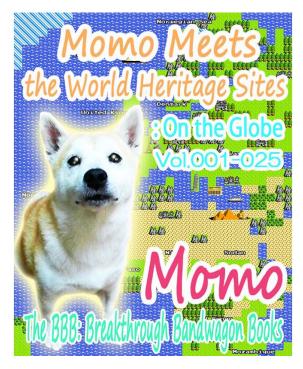
Now, Momo is going to leave from Tokyo International Airport.





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Momo Works List at The BBB



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