

Nekoyakushi - The Cat Buddha

Once upon a time, a rich man from Koyama built a small shrine in the village of Karo, where he prayed to the Buddha Yakushi Nyorai. But when the rich man passed away, there was nobody to look after the shrine.

Then...
(shimmer)

"Have you seen the light, that's coming from the top of Mount Sorayama at night"

"Scary, isn't it"

"Yeah..."

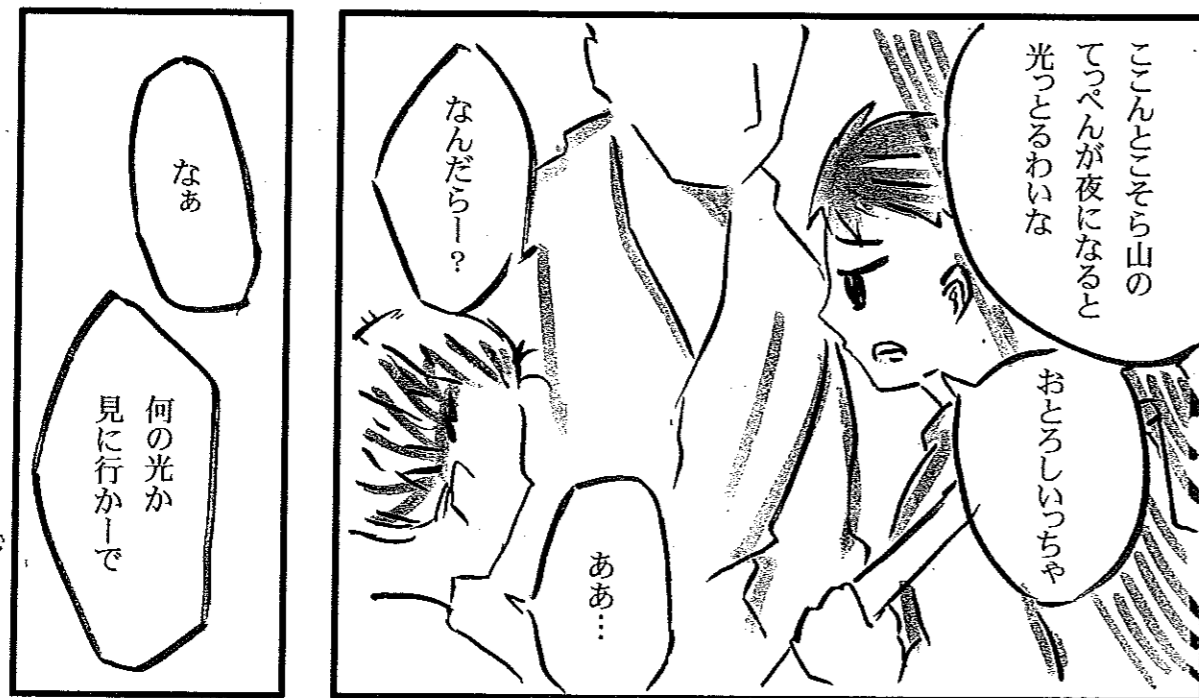
"What is it?"

"Hey"

"Let's go and find out!"



猫薬師 かねつ、首領・画





Phew!

„Ooh!“

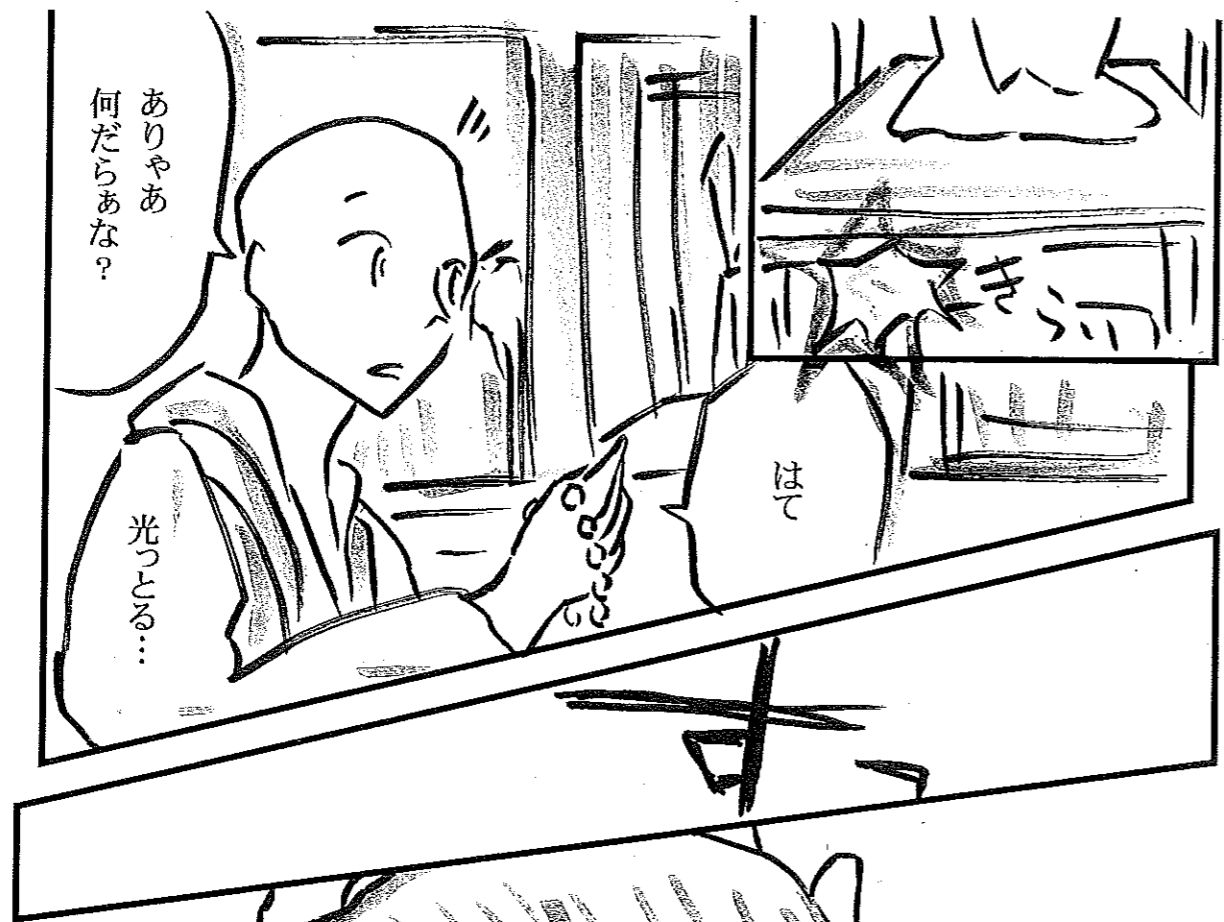
„It's the Yakushi Buddha from Karo!“

“Here, of all places...”

“It's shining”

“Let's build a shrine in Koyama.”

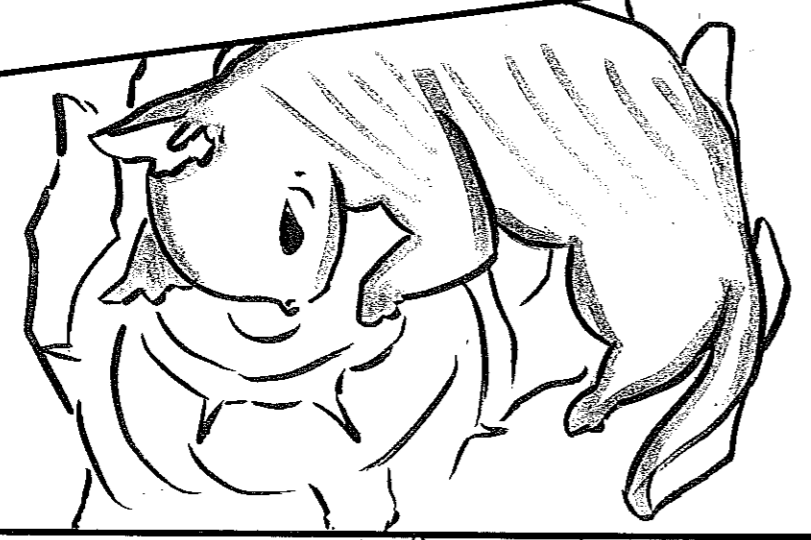
And so the villagers built a small shrine and from that time the Buddha was called the Yakushi Buddha from Koyama.



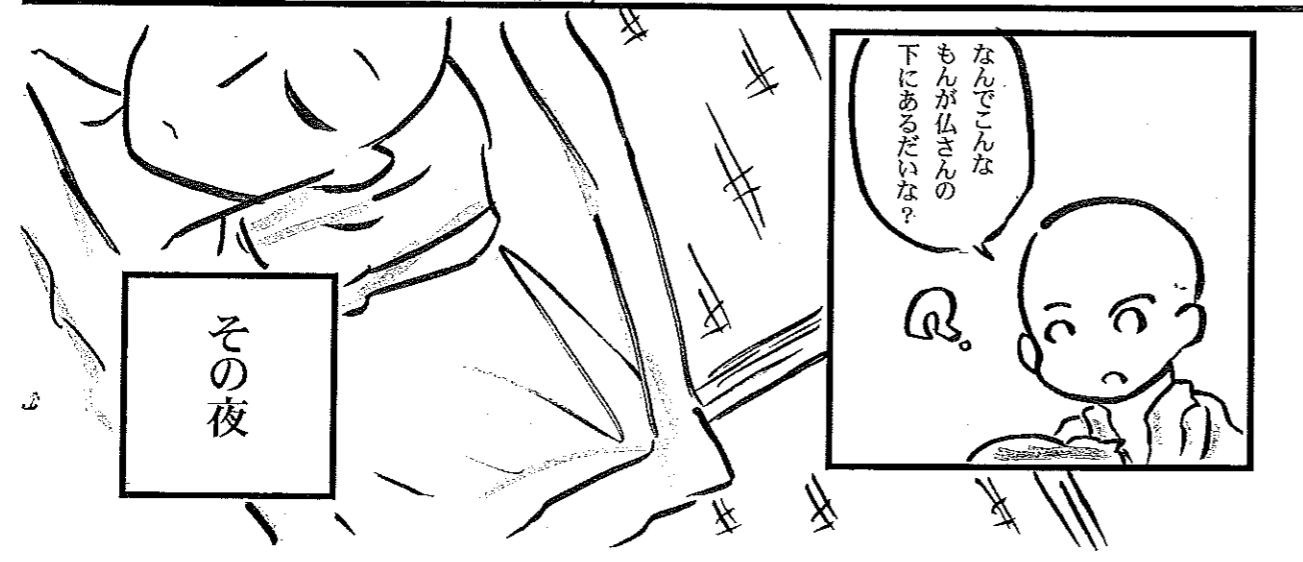
ありやあ
何だらあな?

光とる...

はて



それは赤毛の
猫のミイラでした



なんでこんな
もんが仏さんの
下にあるだいな?

その夜

(glint)
„Oh!“
„What’s that?“
something’s twinkling

(pull)

What had been shining, was a mummified small ginger kitten.

“What was it doing below the buddha statue?”

That night...



お坊さん
私の話を
聞いて下さいな

私は湖山長者さまの
お家で飼われていた
猫です

おほうさん

おほうさん

"Dear priest!", "Dear priest!"
"Please hear me out"
"I once belonged to the rich man from Koyama."

"My master had been very kind to me."
"He taught me to believe in Buddha."
„But one night a lake suddenly appeared in Koyama. I fell in the
lake and drowned. “

"I was devoting myself to Buddha just as my master had told me,
when..."
"...the power of the Yakushi Buddha made me become Buddha
myself."



けれど私は一晩で
池になってしまった
湖山池でおぼれて

長者さまは
私を大層
かわいがって下さり、

仏さまへの
信心を説いて
下さりました

しかし長者さまの
教えられたとおり
信心を心がけた
としよう。

死んでしまったのです

お薬師さん
の力で仏さん
になることが
できました



世の人々にご利益を
さずける為にごうぞ
力になつて下さい

湖山長者の猫の
ミイラは、薬師さんと
いつしよに祀られ

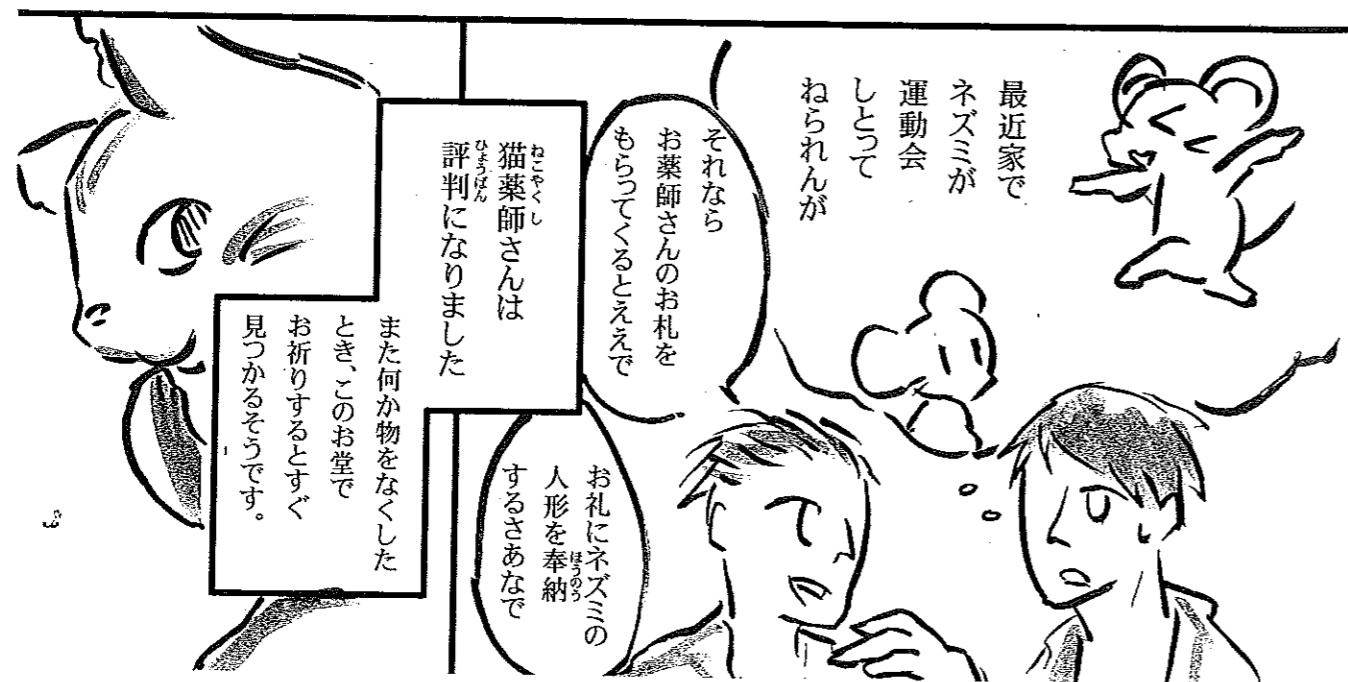
「湖山薬師」は
「湖山の猫薬師」と
言われるように
なりました。

“You must devote yourself to bring good to the people.”

And so the people prayed to the Yakushi Buddha and to the mummy of the rich man's cat; and the “Yakushi Buddha from Koyama” became known as “Nekoyakushi - the Cat Buddha from Koyama”.

“Mice are running rampant in our house and I can't get any sleep”
“Well, why don't you get a talisman from the Yakushi Buddha?”
“Then attach a puppet of a mouse puppet near it”

The Cat Buddha became very popular.
It is said that it also helps its worshippers in finding lost objects.



最近家で
ネズミが
運動会
して
ねられんが

それなら
お薬師さんのお札を
もらつてくるとええで

猫薬師さんは
評判になりました

お札にネズミの
人形を奉納
するさあなで

また何か物をなくした
とき、このお堂で
お祈りするとすぐ
見つかるそうです。