Natural disaster research archived in records in Kamo-wake-ikazuchi shrine (Kamigamo-shrine)

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Historical documents archived in shrines include natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, and astronomical phenomena such as low latitude aurora and comets. Especially in the shrines of Kyoto, records can be reversed long, and the same phenomenon is often recorded in many shrines in parallel. By combining with current knowledge these old records can be valuable scientific data before modern scientific observations. What kind of natural phenomena is the recorded situation in light of the current knowledge and how each person of the time realized the situation, what kind of reaction did it respond to it and how It is possible to clarify whether they corresponded (such as relief and prayer). In addition to data as a natural science, this may be used as a data of science and technology sociology theory in terms of the record of the relationship between nature at the time and society.

The company diary (Kamigamo Shrine) ’s diary (“Hinamiki”), which is currently conducting the survey, is a continuous record and continuous record over the 247 years from 1665 to 1911. Earthquakes, floods, low-latitude aurora, crime, and other events that people recognized as abnormal at that time are noted. Last fiscal year, we started using surveys such as photographing partial historical documents by utilizing the catalog of published books. Looking at the records of Kamigamo Shrine about the aurora witnessed in various parts of Japan in 1770, the discussion as to whether the people around the temple company gather or pray should continue until midnight, before the rare phenomenon we, people nowaday can see how people responded.

By investigating the relationship between other phenomena such as earthquakes and prayers, it is possible to see in detail the nature view at the time and its transition, including the magnitude of the phenomenon, by discussing it. Approaches from both historical and natural sciences are essential. Historical materials of shrines in Kyoto are huge, and it is impossible for all researchers to decipher just the company diary of Kamigamo Shrine. As a means to solve this problem, decryption by citizen participation can be considered. Such efforts are not only fusion of different fields among researchers, but also from the viewpoint of citizen science, fusion with citizens is effective, so that we can use these records as material of research about the relationship between the present science, technology, academia and citizens, not only in the past but also in present.

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