



# ***Landscape of Hardship***

## **Geography and Place in *Shipwrecks***







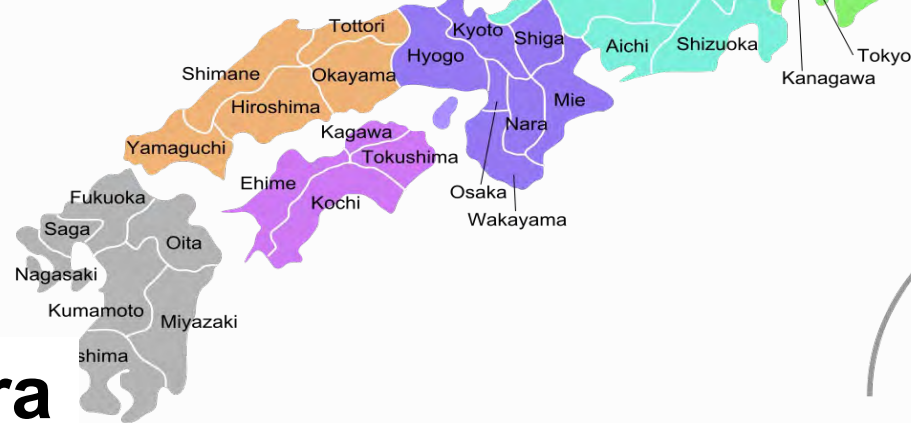
**Akira Yoshida**



**Sanriku Coast**



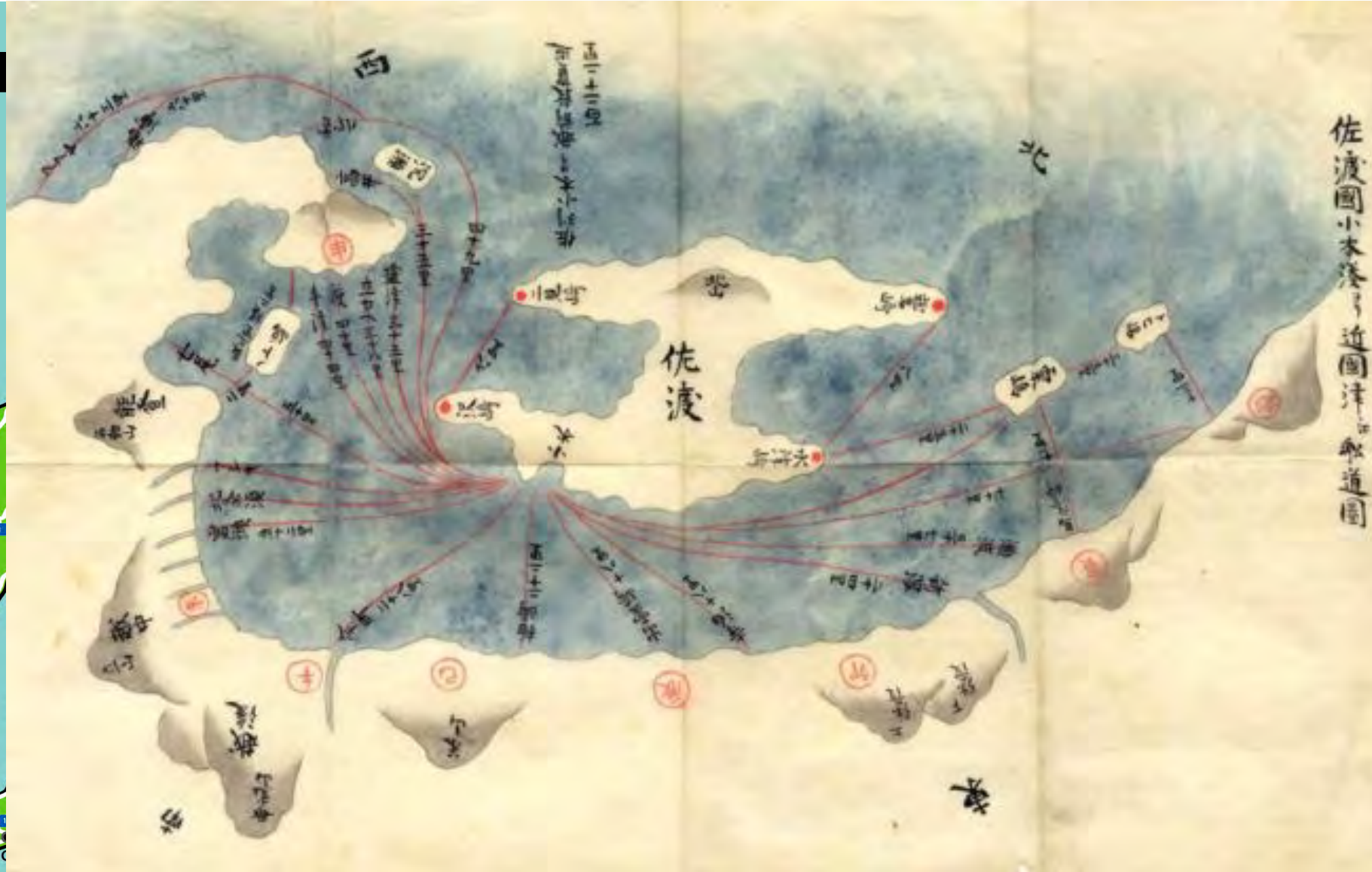
**Setsuko Tsumura**





Sado

Aikawa



(Tokyo)

km

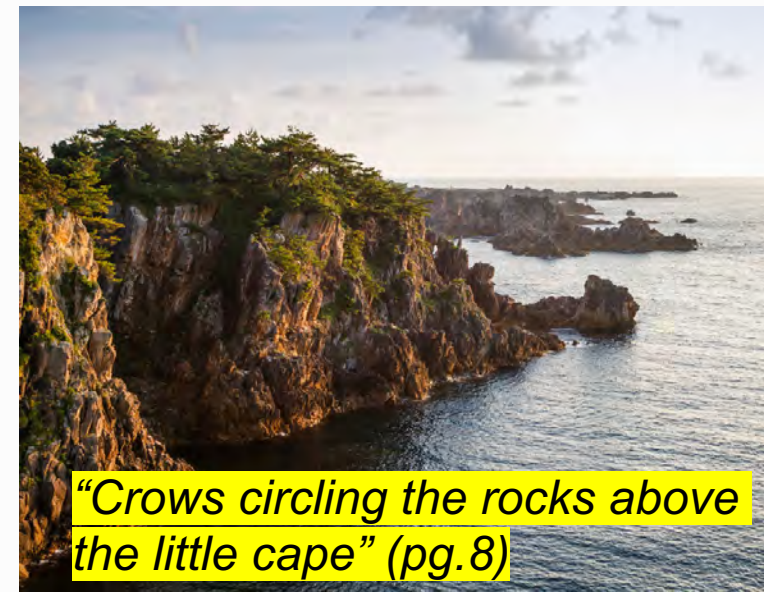




*A vast and intricate reef lay concealed under the surface of the water.” (pg.26)*



Michael Yamashita



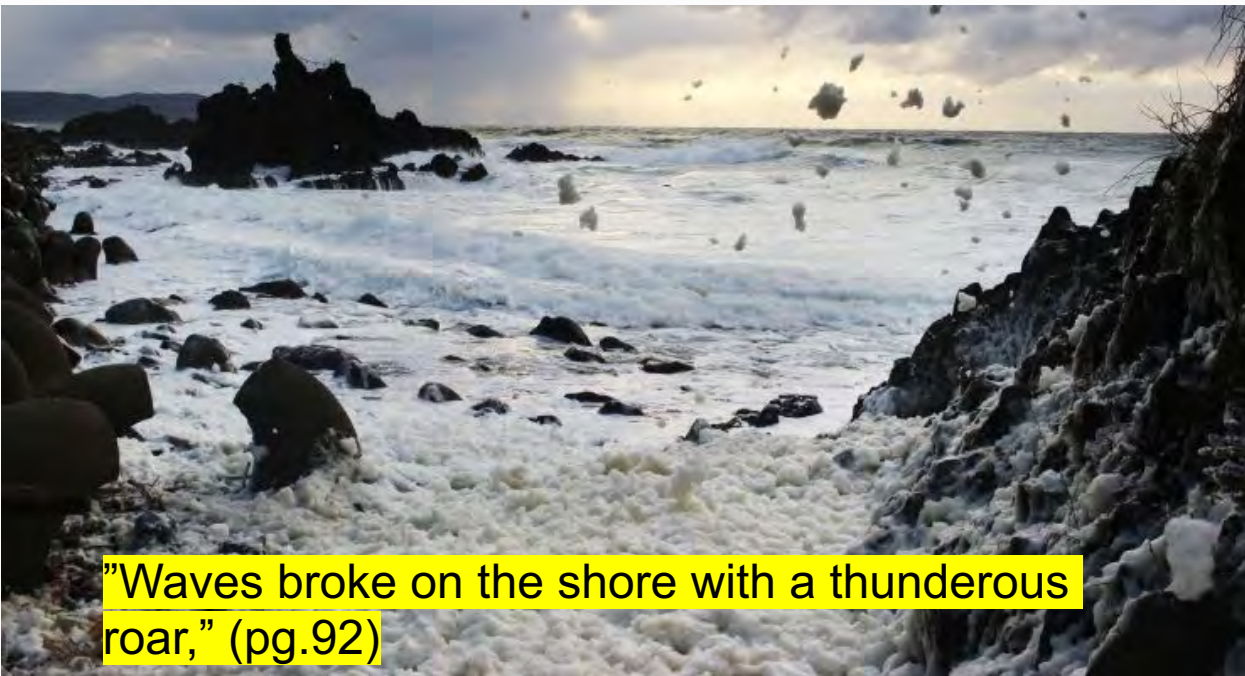
*“Crows circling the rocks above the little cape” (pg.8)*



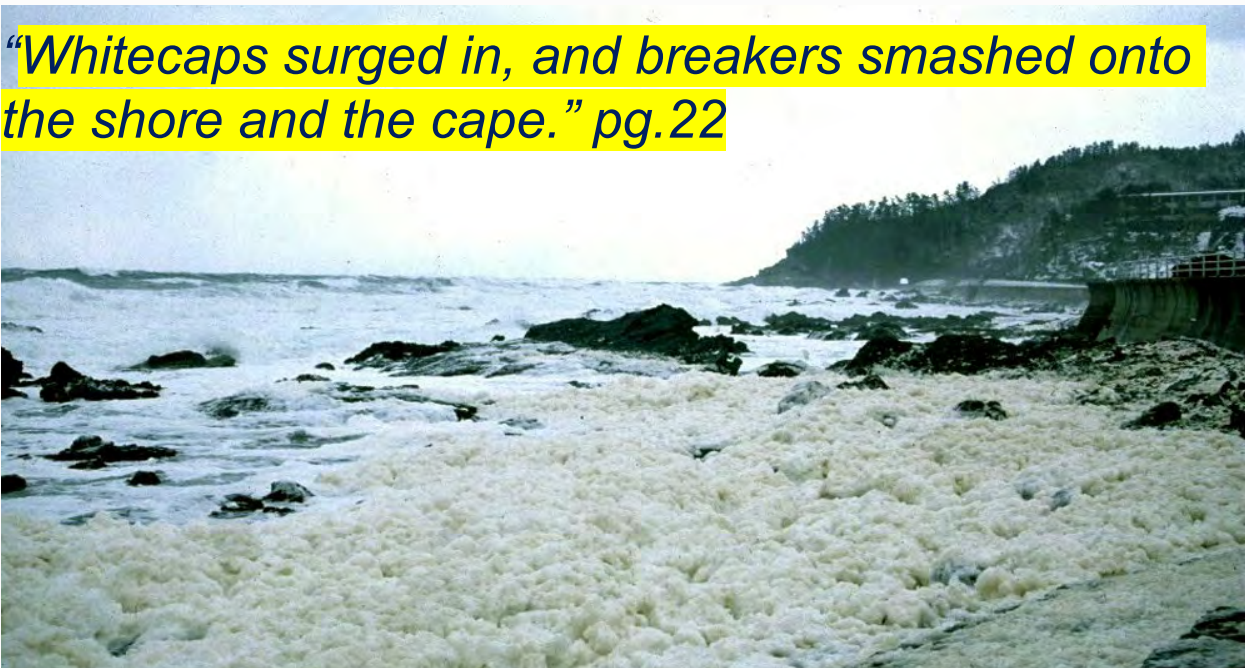
*“When the northwest winds start to blow, the sea gets rough, and more ships get in trouble.” pg.26*







"Waves broke on the shore with a thunderous roar," (pg.92)



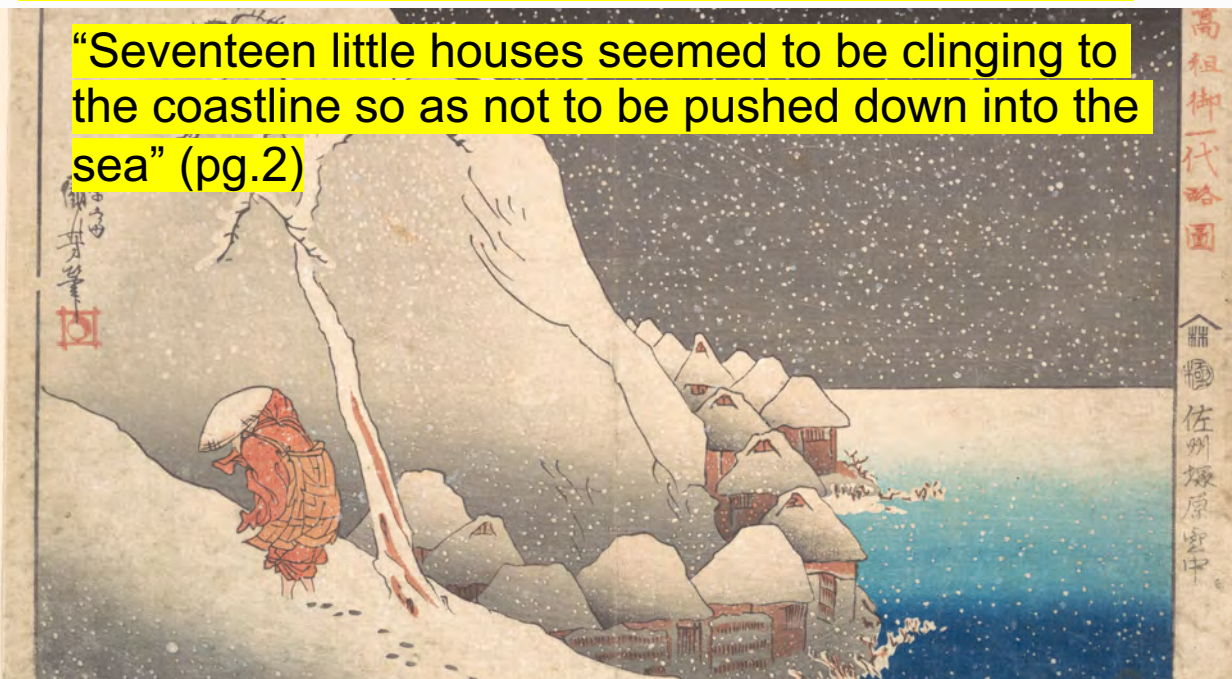
*"Whitecaps surged in, and breakers smashed onto the shore and the cape." pg.22*





Top: Nichiren in snows of Tsukuhara on Sado Island Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1831)

"Seventeen little houses seemed to be clinging to the coastline so as not to be pushed down into the sea" (pg.2)



Above: Dawn Snow at the Port of Ogi Kawase Hasui (1921)



Above: Kamo Village Kawase Hasui (1921)





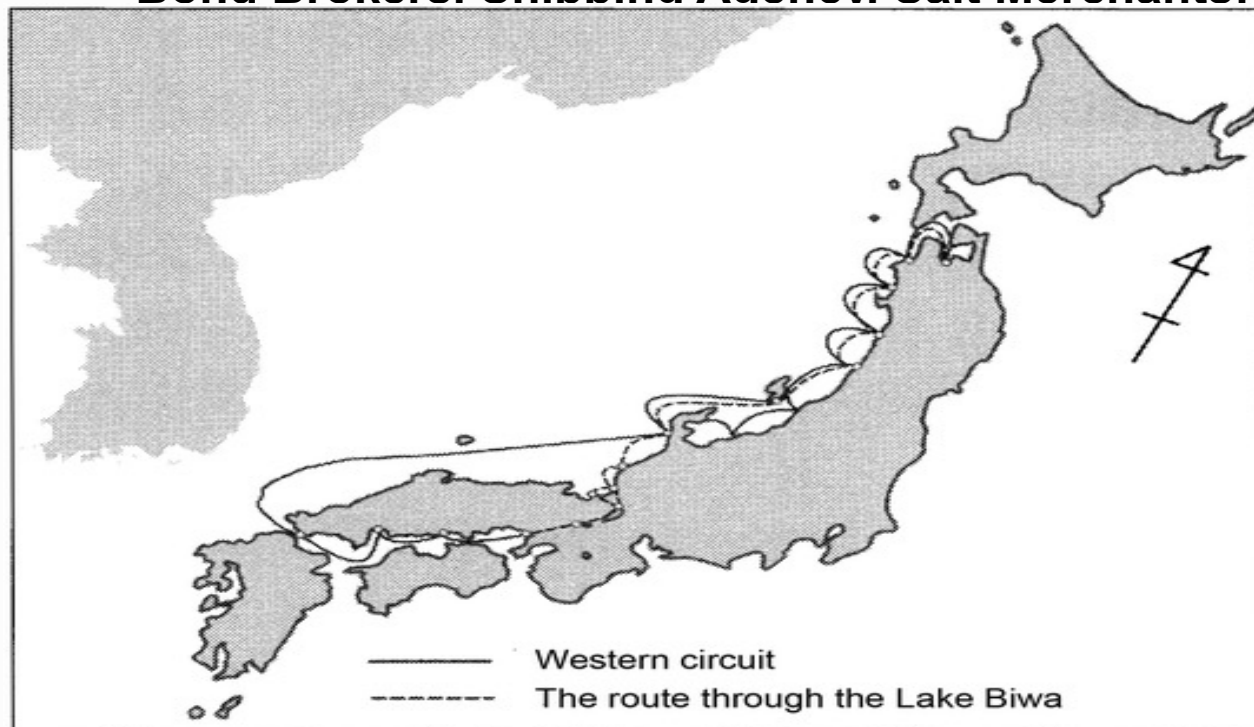
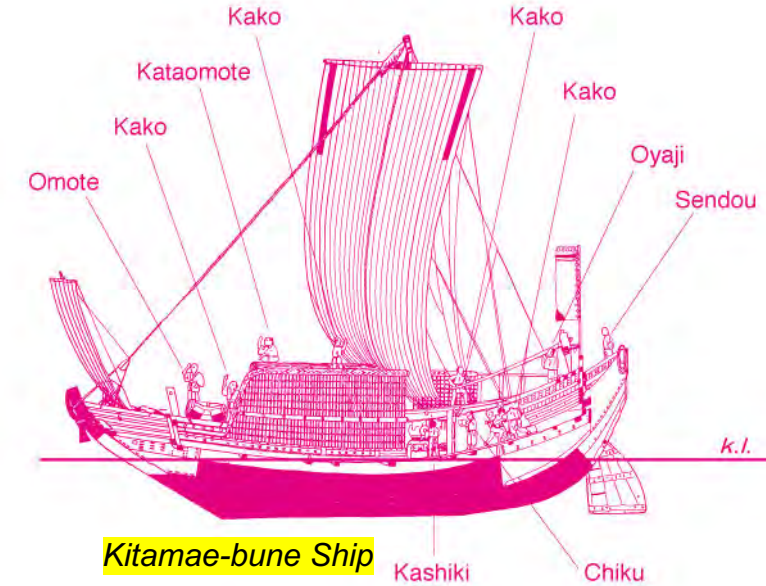
Above: Nishimikawazaka on Sado Island Kawase Hasui (1921)



# Economic Insecurity: Salt, Sails and Springsteen

- “A ship big enough to carry four hundred bales appeared...At this time of year freshly harvested rice was transported by ship.” (pg.73)
- Taxes in assessed *koku* of rice (Amount of rice to feed 1 person for 1 year).
- Investment in other products for taxes or for greater return on investment.  
**Rise of merchants to facilitate these transactions.**
- Expanded domestic trade network. Domestic sea trade infrastructure.  
**Bond Brokers. Shipping Agency. Salt Merchants...the number of ships.**

Photo: Kitamae-bune Ships Early 20th ce.





# Salt Making in Shipwrecks









# ***Economic Insecurity: Salt, Sails and Springsteen***

“if *O-fune-sama* had come, he would not have had to sell his wife into bondage and their marriage would not have been ruined.” (pg.27)

“Don’t let the children starve,” (pg.38)

“...more than half the fish were being used to fertilize the fields, so they came back with very little grain.” (pg. 61)



“Well now I lost my money and I lost my wife,  
Them things don't seem to matter much to me now.  
Tonight I'll be on that hill 'cause I can't stop,  
I'll be on that hill with everything I got,  
With lives on the line where dreams are found and lost,  
I'll be there on time and I'll pay the cost,  
For wanting things that can only be found  
In the darkness on the edge of town.”

-Bruce Springsteen *Darkness on the Edge of Town*

“Everything dies, baby that’s a fact,  
But maybe everytihin’ that dies someday comes back.”

-Bruce Springsteen *Atlantic City*





# Did this happen? Maybe, it did happen.

- ❖ “The villagers were afraid that the bailiff would suspect that the fires under the salt cauldrons were for luring passing ships on to the rocks.” (pg34).
- ❖ No sources explicitly describe purposefully luring ships to their doom.
- ❖ Yet evidence that derelict ship salvaging was a concern in Japan.  
廻船式目 (*Kaisenshikimoku*) → provisions concerning ownership of “drifting ships.”  
“The bailiff would come to arrest the villagers and subject them to harsh interrogation.” (pg.106-107)
- ❖ Munakata Grand Shrine (*Taisha*) is said to have financed rebuilding the shrine with funds raised from “donations” of “drifting ships.”





# ***O-fune-sama: Ritual, Calamity and Public Health***

- ❖ “O-fune-sama are the ones on the costal run, merchant ships...”(pg.35)
- ❖ O-fune-sama (Honorable Ship Deity) is one name for *Funadama*, a goddess protecting ships in folk religious belief of sailors.
- ❖ “Soul of the Ship” –“Look, that bowl there, that’s from O-fune-sama.” (pg.11)
- ❖ Invoked through a shrine in the ship (**2 dolls, lock of women’s hair, a pair of dice and 12 coins.**)







O-fune-sama (Funadama) – 20<sup>th</sup> CE.



O-fune-sama (Funadama) in Helmsman's Book – 17th-18th CE





# O-fune-sama: Ritual, Religious Practice as Public Health

- ❖ The need to control bad events
- ❖ Based on knowledge at time (demons / monsters *Yokai*).
- ❖ Rituals and Folk Belief: Asking for something or **Preventing something → diseases.**
  - ❖ Red – Vitality, Strength, Power....health?
  - ❖ Salt – “It’s to summon *O-fune-sama*...” (pg.27)
  - ❖ Washing - “Spirits would wash their feet before entering the house” (pg.62)
    - “Those who returned would wash themselves in the sea for everyday two weeks”
  - ❖ Banishment – literal or figurative (festivals)
    - “The poison will remain...and the demons of disease will reappear to plague us again.” (pg.174)



Hyakki Yagō Emak (13th-15<sup>th</sup> ce.



Yasurai Festival (Imamiya Shrine Kyoto)