

Marriage with Toku



Toku and Shokichi*

■ How Shokichi met Toku

In 1894, Shokichi returned to Nagasaki after a long absence from his travels around Asia. When he entered his own home, a woman whom he did not know asked him, "Who are you?" He replied indignantly, "I am the son of this family." This woman was Toku, whom Shokichi's parents had adopted from the Kashii family, a family with samurai ancestry in Kasu Village on Iki Island (present-day Katsumoto-cho, Iki City) to ensure the continuation of the Umeya family in place of Shokichi, who had left home.

■ Wish of a sick father

Their adoptive father Kichigoro was already old and bedridden. He called Shokichi, who had come home after many years, and Toku to his bedside and said to them as if in prayer, "I want to see you two get married before I leave this world and go to the other side." Shokichi and Toku heeded this wish and got married. True to his word, Kichigoro passed away after their marriage as if he were relieved.

■ Nine years of separation

The couple married, but Shokichi soon returned to Hong Kong. Toku, who was left behind, ran Umeya Shoten in Nagasaki until Nobu, her adoptive mother, passed away. It was indeed nine years after their marriage that Shokichi and Toku finally lived together in Hong Kong.