

“There are thousands of ancient gods, starting with Izanagi and Izanami, all of whom have their own folklore and roots throughout Japan. But in the middle of all that, the only one to be deliberately forgotten is Tsukuyomi-no-mikoto. Not just because they are the god of night, but also, the god of the dead. I thought it was because of some deep reason...”

A Kitaro Group Production Original Dynavision

The purpose of this visit is to help solve a case. Lately, there have been numerous alleged cases of the dead coming back to life through the “anti-soul technique.” This technique is to forcibly pull a soul back to its original body after the soul has already crossed the equinoctial week. It’s a forbidden curse, because the body is already dead, and those who have been pulled back will experience endless suffering. Through any means possible, you must find and stop the perpetrator.

The perpetrator was finally identified as an ordinary young man named Yasuda. He dresses in casual, fine clothes, it almost appears that he has no reason to use the anti-soul technique. However, in his hand were five orbs that hold a powerful curse. Yasuda carries and practices with the orbs, without any hesitation, despite how these contain a level of magical power that is dangerous for humans. He obviously knows what he’s doing, but it’s for an unusual purpose. When Kitaro and others asked for his reasons, he told them about the fantastic power. “I found a hidden legend.”

Yasuda was an assistant to the archaeologist Professor Imakuno, and spent his time deciphering and excavating literature. In the Nihon Shoki, where many gods have been documented with their own myths, there are extremely few descriptions of Tsukuyomi-no-mikoto. What could be the reason? Intrigued by that, the professor chose Tsukuyomi-no-mikoto as his research theme. One old document Yasuda found along the way changed his life. “Tsukuyomi-no-Mikoto is the creator of youkai, sealed away by a brother god who feared that they had created a race that was stronger and lived longer than humans.” Possessed by the document, Yasuda has come up with a terrifying way to prove the credibility of the unbelievable sealed legend. “I will revive Tsukuyomi-no-Mikoto.” He stole the orbs from a

tomb's ruins, begun dabbling in the curse, and wanders around graveyards to hunt for souls. In order to complete all the rituals to resurrect Tsukuyomi-no-Mikoto, the gentle young man has transformed into a madman who will use any means.

Yasuda said in a confident tone that one more sacrificed person will start the resurrection. We don't believe Yasuda's claims, but he must stop hunting souls. Yasuda easily holds off Kitaro and Jigoku-Douji with the orbs' magical power and calmly gets the last sacrifice. "The legend was true!" The ball glows brightly, swallowing up the maniacally-laughing Yasuda with a pillar of fire that blew up from the ground. The surface of the earth cracks open, and an unbelievable sight rises up from the bottom of the earth: an enormous pulsating snake. When Medama-Oyaji saw the human-faced snake, he exclaimed, "It's Joka!" They are the creator of Chinese mythology, the goddess of the moon, who restored heavens and earth after they were destroyed by a disaster with the five-colored orbs.

They were called Tsukuyomi-no-Mikoto in Japanese mythology, but they were Joka in Chinese mythology, and everyone was shocked to see that the gods were the same. The legend was true.

PAGE 2

Joka wakes up and takes a deep breath, as Kitaro and the others watch over them, stunned. They roars with an echo that tears the heavens, and youkai are pulled towards Joka's body like a magnet and absorbed. They are a huge snake colored by the light of the lives of youkai, and shine beautifully. "They probably need the energy to completely wake up. Run away, Kitaro!" Kitaro, who was seriously injured, could not even chase after Medama Oyaji as he was being absorbed.

It was archaeologist Professor Imakuno who helped the unconscious Kitaro and his friends. It seems that only Kitaro, Jigoku-Douji, and Neko Musume escaped being absorbed by Joka. The professor, who was wondering where his assistant had gone from their laboratory, was the only person who could accurately understand the situation. The professor is humbled with remorse that he couldn't stop Yasuda. "It can't be, it's really come back..." If Joka is completely revived, they will all be consumed by the tremendous magic. Japan will disappear entirely from this world. "I

have to stop them before that happens...somebody has to stop them!” But who can destroy a god? They have no idea how to reseal it. The professor gave his best information to the trio, who were going to fight and put their lives on the line. “Tsukuyomi-no-Mikoto was sealed by Susanoo with Amaterasu’s help. In other words, their power can be defeated by two gods. Maybe that’s why only you guys escaped absorption.”

The three challenge an enemy who is too powerful for them. They can get no attacks in at all, and Joka swats them away like insects, and each time the trio only get injured worse and worse. Suddenly, light shines off of the pocket mirror that fell out of Neko Musume’s purse, and Joka’s tentacles were burned away. “The mirror...? I see, I get it!” Jigoku-Douji, who had been thinking hard about the professor’s words, finally came to a realization. Amaterasu and Susanoo, who sealed Jouka away, carry three belongings called the Three Sacred Treasures: magatama beads, mirrors, and swords. In fact, Jigoku-Douji was the successor to one of them, carrying the “Yasakani no Magatama”. They realized they weren’t absorbed because they possessed the only powers that can contain Joka. So what about Susanoo’s sword...? Kitaro casually said the answer. “The Yamata no Orochi? I’ve fought it before.”

PAGE 3

It is said that Susanoo defeated Yamata no Orochi and obtained the Three Sacred Treasures from its body. Susanoo defeated Yamata no Orochi and chose Kusanagi’s sword. “Kitaro, you must will the sword into your hands. You earned Susanoo’s sacred treasure!” Kitaro is surprised by Jigoku-Douji’s words, and is in disbelief. However, he can’t afford to wonder, and they have no other choice. A big, shining sword appeared in Kitaro’s hands, and he dragged his body full of wounds and stood up, lifting up the sword with all his might. “After all...” They finally have three of the sacred treasures of Susanoo and Amaterasu, who sealed Joka’s evil the first time. These are the only items that can reseal Joka again. Jigoku-Douji and Neko Musume give Kitaro a magatama and a mirror to recreate the legend that the gods lent Susanoo their items to seal Joka away. The other two, who had already been so injured that they couldn’t move, knew

that they would be absorbed by Joka, and let go of the items that protected them.

Kitaro, who is left alone, stands up with the sword in his hand. When he was about to swing it down, Medama Oyaji, who was trapped inside the body of a woman, jumped into Kitaro's eyes. Those who were absorbed were still alive in Joka's form. Sealing Joka's evil would also bury all his friends alive. Joka laughs at the stunned Kitaro. "I can't do it," says Kitaro, gritting his teeth. His friends send encouragement from Joka's body with their last power. "Stop Joka's resurrection! Don't hesitate, Kitaro!" Voices, voices, voices that cascade over him like ripples in a pond. Hearing those voices, Kitaro lifts his head decisively and slowly reholds his sword. "Daaad!!" The legendary sword became a band of light and pierced Joka's body. The giant body was dragged into the ground without a sound. The god who was revived according to myth disappeared according to myth.

His decision to act just before the full resurrection had unexpected consequences. All the people who were trapped in the body begun to return. The souls Yasuda sacrificed are also released from their bondage and return to where they should be in the afterlife. But if the decision had been a little late... All of Kitaro's friends praise his courage and rejoice in the miracle of surviving. "You're a really great guy!" Kitaro smiles and seems to start crying while being praised by his friends. The power of using your life to save a life, the power to believe. The power of life desperately trying to stay alive, the power of thinking. It might not have just been the myth, but also the power in the hearts of many.

