

## The Mysterious Monster from the Heavens (怪天

### 鬼)(18)

- 1) The Monster steps into the mansion of Kōketsutenzen. “Har, har, har, har! Lord Bandages, come out with your vassals in tow! I’m here to fight you!” (declares the Monster). But no one comes out.
- 2) “Well then, I will have to leave them a message” (says the Monster). He picks up a writing brush and begins to scrawl a message on the wall, “The Monster has arrived. I assume the government official will show up in two days time? I look forward to meeting you then!” Then he departs.
- 3) A short time latter some of the vassals of Lord Bandages, who have been hiding in, come out. “Lord, we were no match for the Monster. We had no choice but to hide.” “Oh look, there’s something written on the wall...,” (remarks Lord Bandages).
- 4) “...the government official will show up in two days time...” “Oh, we’re in trouble if he meets the official... the lord’s bandages will give him away...” (remarks a vassal by the name of Tōbeko).
- 5) “Lord, it will be okay,” (insists his vassals). “There are three drops of blood remaining.” “If you drink them, your face will transform and you’ll scare away the official.” “Okay...” (replies the lord and gulps them down).

- 6) Here we have a young swordsman searching for a murderer suspect. After treating the wound he arrives at the home of a warrior by the name of Okano, declaring, “Lord Bandages is the murderer, beyond a doubt!”
- 7) “Hmmm, let’s see, looks like someone tested his sword on the body, see, it is also cut up very badly. Hmmm, it’s that ugly, pus-faced Lord Bandages’ deed it seems? Well, I will be right off to speak to the Senior Councilor and have a look into it,” (says Okano).
- 8) The next day Okano receives permission from the Senior Councilor, and visits Lord Bandages’ mansion. “I have come to investigate Lord Bandages and I don’t care what form he is in.” “I will meet him face to face!” (declares Okano).
- 9) Okano is able to pass to the most interior of rooms. (He remarks to himself), “I wonder if Lord Hōtai will appear?”

Well, what do you think will happen next?