



## Hifuri-shinji: Marriage of the Gods

神々の結婚 火振り神事

The locals of Aso celebrate the marriage of the god Kunitatsu-no-Kami through whirling rings of fire. Bales of grass are attached to long ropes which are then lit on fire and swung wildly to cleanse the swinger of sin and dishonor. With sparks flying and flames swirling, it's as if these ancient rites are calling for the impatient Spring to come wake Aso from its Winter slumber.

姫神をめとる国龍神の婚姻の儀を阿蘇の人々は渦巻くような炎の輪で祝う。縄の先の芽束に火を付けた松明を振り回せば、五穀豊穡、ご利益に預かれるという。そして、人々が打ちふるう松明が呼びよせるかのように、待ちわびた春の足音が、足早に近づいてくるのだ。

Aso Shrine (map-04)  
阿蘇神社

