

The Story of TADAYA

A forbidden love beyond a big gap of social standing

In the Edo era, the Saga-Nabeshima han, the Saga-Nabeshima province, was at the heights of its prosperity. It is well-known for its unique tradition of blending the conservative with the progressive by accepting Western culture from Nagasaki as quickly as possible, at the period of national isolation. The last head of Nabeshima han was Naotora Nabeshima, who played an important role as a member of the Upper House of Meiji government.

Tadaya inn dramatically changed its destiny due to the marriage of Yoshiko Nabeshima, the eldest daughter of Naotora, to Kinori Tada, the third owner of this inn. “Forbidden Love” cherished beyond unbroken barrier leads to Tadaya inn to the present site, which gives a good view of the Gulf of Nanao.

Tadaya inn at Wakura Onsen was opened by Kisaburo Tada, the first owner, in the 18th year of Meiji, when there were a few inns surrounding the origin of Wakura hot spring. The second owner Sotojiro brought the inn, which had carried stably on a business, to a crisis. He ran into a huge debt owing to others’ guarantee, or the investment on a gold mountain of Noto. The debt caused his son, Kinori, to lead a difficult life. He, who was enjoying his college life in Tokyo after graduating from high school in Nanao city, couldn’t get any money from his family. He was at a loss about how to earn money for college, and was determined to get a driver license. (A driving license then was as uncommon as an airplane one today.) The license gave him an opportunity to make a fateful encounter with a lady.

He happened to work as a chauffeur of Nabeshima family. He usually saw off Naotora, the head of Nabeshima, to the building of the Upper House and welcomed him back. He also drove Yoshiko to Women’s College of Gakushuin once in a while. In those days, social standing was heavily valued. So, a poor college student was not allowed to have even a small talk with a daughter from rich and high-status family, to say nothing of marriage. Though there is today no knowing how they got familiar with each other, it was not long before they could not restrain from loving each other. It went without saying that Nabeshima family could not admit their relationship. Besides, Yoshiko was never likely to be a kinori’s wife because she was supposed to marry into Tokugawa family. After they had been struggling for their marriage, they finally ran away hand in hand.

An unexpected heavyweight that supported the young lovers and their life

Kinori and Yoshiko quietly slipped out from the house and got on a train for Ishikawa. They were about to take a little rest on the shabby seats, when the train came to a sudden stop. It was Matsutaro Shoriki, the chief of Police, who appeared in front of them. He was ordered to take Yoshiko back to home by her father. When Kinori thought it was all over, Mr. Shoriki said to him, "You should be back to Ishikawa by yourself and wait until the time is right. I'll ask her father to allow your marriage." Matsutaro Shoriki was such a big person as to work as the president of Yomiuri Newspaper or Nihon TV. He was also called "Father of TV Broadcast". Who could imagine he played Cupid for the two?

Kinori waited and waited to meet Yoshiko with Mr. Shoriki's words in his mind. As for Yoshiko, after she was taken back home, she was absent-minded, doing nothing but longing for her lover. Her father felt painfully sorry for his daughter and at last agreed with her marriage, taking the measure to make Yoshiko's social standing lower to a commoner.

He let his lovable daughter have a lot of valuable things as wedding gifts. All the belongings of upper-class women bore the crest of their own family, but Yoshiko's didn't.

Kinori could clear off a large amount of debt by selling all the stocks of big companies given Yoshiko by her father. At first he refused firmly to do so, but she urged him, saying distinctly, "Now that we are a couple, your troubles are mine."

After marriage, she was faced with a lot of hardships with the unfamiliar inn business. The most tragic accident followed the hardships. She mistakenly fell into hot spring of 94 degree centigrade and was burned to death. She was as young as forty-one-year old. She, however, didn't lead an unhappy life. She not only got married to the man who she loved deeply, but she was blessed with four children. She worked very hard as a landlady, and what was more, she was loved by all the persons around her. She liked the nature of Nanao-city very much. Above all, she attached to the burning sunset, which turns the Gulf of Nanao into crimson. She hoped that she could admire the sunset every evenings, and that her guests could enjoy seeing the sun setting into the sea. Her earnest desire was to transfer the inn to the seaside.

For the magnificent sunset

It was in the 48th year of Showa. Matsutaro, Yoshiko's eldest son and the fourth owner, and Emiko, his wife, complete the transfer of the inn to the present site, which used to be Yoshiko's dream. It took a long and tough time. There were neither paved roads nor water pipes on the site, off the main hot-spring street. To make matter worse, the number of the quests decreased sharply the following year because of Oil Shock. Even during such a hard time, the most beautiful sunset in the Wakura district coul not fail to make them lose the confidence in their business. It was no doubt that their quests who admired the sunset were of powerful help.

In the end

Tadaya inn began with "a forbidden love". With Yoshiko's dream cherished by her son, it has been settled at the seaside of the Gulf of Nanao, which can give a good sight of the magnificent sunset.

We are willing to give our quests as much satisfaction and inspiration as we can. All of us are always welcoming our guests together with the beautiful sunset.

The sixth owner: Kentaro Tada