ことばの歳時記

~こんこん~

にほん りっしゅん ぜんじっ まいとしにがつみっか せっぷん きせっ か め しょう じゃき おに お 日本では、立春の前日である毎年2月3日ごろを「節分」といい、季節の変わり目に生じるといわれる邪気(鬼)を追はら おに そと ふく うち い まめ い払うために「鬼は外、福は内」と言いながら豆まきをしたりします。

さて日本には「雪やこんこ(ん)、霰 やこんこ(ん)」ではじまる童謡があります。「こんこ(ん)」は、「来い来い=降れ降れという意味の古語)」が元になっているともいわれています。

した。 しょう はままれる はい には、「咳がこんこん出る」「扉をこんこんたたく」といった実際の音に近いものを表現する場合と、いずみ はいしたという。 「泉がこんこんとう。(尽きることなく水が盛んに湧き出るさま)」「こんこんと論す(心をこめて繰り返し説くさま)」「こんこんと眠る(眠りの深いさま)」など様々な意味で使う場合があります。

A Calendar of Words

Konkon

In Japan, the day before the first day of spring in the old calendar (around about February 3) is called *Setsubun*. Demons are said to appear at the turning-point between seasons, and on *Setsubun* it is the custom to throw beans and shout "Out with demons, in with good luck!" in order to cast these demons out.

February in Japan is a transitional period between winter and spring. It still feels cold, but many people are eagerly awaiting the spring, particularly in areas that get heavy snow.

There is a Japanese children's song that begins "Yuki ya konko(n), arare ya konko(n) ("Come snow, come hail"). This is said to have originated from the fact that "konko(n)" is an ancient word meaning "koi, koi" ("come, come") or in this case, "fure, fure" ("fall, fall").

Konkon can also be used to express a sound, such as in "Seki ga konkon deru" ("Have a hacking cough"), or "Tobira wo konkon tataku" ("To rap on a door"). And it can also be used with a variety of other meanings, such as "Izumi ga konkon to waku" ("water bubbles up from the spring with no sign of stopping"), "Konkon to satosu" ("to repeatedly admonish someone"), and "Konkon to nemuru" ("to sleep deeply").