## Weather in Japan $\sim$ Autumnal Rain $\sim$

Come autumn, the high-pressure system in the Pacific Ocean begins to weaken and a cold high moves down from the Asian continent. The two high-pressure systems collide and create a stationary front over the Japanese archipelago. This stationary front is referred to as the autumnal front, and the rain during this period is called *aki no naga-ame* or *shuurin*, both of which literally mean "long rain of autumn." The weather resembles that during the rainy season in early summer, but unlike the rainy season, no official announcements are made regarding the beginning and end of autumnal rain, because there is no clear beginning or end.

The saying, "a cat's face stretches 90 centimeters when it rains in autumn" means that cold-natured cats relax with a wide smile when it rains in autumn, because autumnal rain brings warmer days than sunny autumn days. It also means that even cats get bored by the long rain of autumn.

Additionally, since ancient times, it is said that "a poor rice harvest means an abundant harvest of matsutake mushrooms," because the weather conditions for rich harvests of rice and matsutake are completely opposite. When there is little rain and many sunny days in autumn, a rich harvest of rice can be expected, but when there is abundant rain in autumn, a rich harvest of matsutake can be expected.

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「秋の雨が降れば猫の顔が三尺 (約90センチ)になる」ということわざがあります。秋は晴れの日よりも雨の日の方が暖かく、またいりでは、からないりでは、秋の長雨をがりの猫も顔を長くして喜ぶという意味のほかに、秋の長雨には猫ですら退屈するという意味もあります。

また、昔から「稲不作は松茸豊作」といわれ、稲と松茸では豊作になる気象条件が逆になります。秋に雨が少なく晴れが多い方はうきくが豊作となる稲と異なり、松茸は秋に雨が多く降ると豊作になります。