

Weather in Japan

～ “Haru-ichiban,” “Kan-no-modori,” and “Atsusa Samusa mo Higanmade” ～

○Haru-ichiban (first spring storm)

Haru-ichiban is the first warm, strong southerly wind of the year that blows during the seasonal transition from winter to spring, usually sometime between the “first day of spring,” which occurs in February according to the calendar, and Spring Equinox Day in March. From the sound of the word, you might imagine a gentle wind that hints of the arrival of spring. However, on the contrary, haru-ichiban requires precaution, as it brings strong southerly winds and high temperatures that could cause snow melts and avalanches, as well as heavy rainfall as a result of an inflow of warm air.

○Kan-no-modori (return of the cold)

As the term literally implies, kan-no-modori is the coldness that returns just when temperatures begin to rise in early spring, caused by a cold wave or moving high-pressure front from the continent. The returning cold sometimes brings snowfall not only to the mountains but also to the plains, and is also called “soshun kanpa” (early spring cold wave).

○Atsusa samusa mo higanmade (heat and cold lasts only until the equinox)

This is a saying that means winter coldness will ease up by the Spring Equinox, and summer heat will ease up by the Autumn Equinox, to bring comfortable weather in the subsequent weeks. It is also used as a proverb meaning all hardships and difficulties will pass with time, and you will be freed of them if you hold out without giving up.

にほん きしやう

日本の気象

はるいちばん かん もど あつ さむ ひがん

～ 『春一番』『寒の戻り』『暑さ寒さも彼岸まで』 ～

○春一番

例年2月の立春から3月の春分の間、冬から春へ移り変わる時季に、初めて吹く暖かく強い南寄りの風を「春一番」と呼びます。その言葉の響きからは春の訪れを告げる優しいイメージがありますが、強い南風や気温上昇による融雪・なだれ、暖気の流入による大雨をもたらすことも多いので注意が必要です。

○寒の戻り

気温が上がりはじめた春先に、大陸からの寒波や移動性高気圧による冷込みなどによって、再び寒くなることを「寒の戻り」といいます。山間部だけでなく平野部でも雪が降ることがあり、別名「早春寒波」とも言われます。

○暑さ寒さも彼岸まで

「冬の寒さは春の彼岸まで、夏の暑さは秋の彼岸までには和らぎ、しのぎやすくなる」という意味の慣用句ですが「どんなに辛いことや大変なことも、ある時期を過ぎれば去っていく。それまであきらめずに耐えれば、解決する」という意味の諺として用いられることもあります。

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