# Weather in Japan $\sim$ Yudachi (Evening Rain) & Thunder $\sim$

### ○ *Yudachi* (evening rain)

Yudachi is the sudden heavy rain that falls in the late afternoon and early evening hours on a sunny summer day, and is sometimes accompanied by thunder. Finding beauty in the yudachi, Buson Yosa, a famous Edo-period poet, wrote the following poem: Caught in a sudden shower / Sparrows huddle / In the grass leaves. In recent years, however, abnormal weather patterns bring yudachi as early as May or June, so that it no longer evokes a special seasonal feeling. Far from it, today's yudachi is beginning to be more frequently associated with destructive, torrential downpours.

#### $\bigcirc$ Thunder

Since ancient times, thunder has been strongly associated with religious beliefs. Places and objects that have been struck by lightning were often worshipped, and farmers, whose livelihood depended on the weather, felt a strong connection to thunder, because thunder brings rain to their fields.

The Kitano Tenmangu Shrine in Kyoto holds a festival to honor the god of thunder on June 1 every year. Frequent thunder signified abundant rain and rich harvest since olden times, but since it also meant greater possibilities of lightning damage, prayers were given for agricultural fertility and few lightning strikes during the year. The festival is a time-honored tradition that has continued since the Heian Period (794-1185).

# 日本の気象

### ~ 『夕立ち』 『雷』 ~

## ○夕立ち

夏の晴天の日の午後から夕方にかけて一時的に降る強い雨で、雷を伴うことがあります。『夕立や草葉をつかむ群雀(むらすずめ)』(夏の午後、急に夕立ちが降ってきた。とだいばれて草葉の陰に隠れて縮こまっている。)と江戸時代の俳人よう謝蕪村も風情のあるものではなく、悪質なゲリラ豪雨の形を取る事も多くなりました。

# ○ **雷**

古くから落雷の被害にあった場所や物が信仰の対象となることも珍しくなく、また雨を伴うことが多いため、雷 はたまでは はないます また はいまない はいっとが強いと言えます。

京都の北野天満宮では毎年6月1日に雷除大祭が行われまかなりませたいまいまでは毎年6月1日に雷除大祭が行われます。これは、古くより雷の多い年は雨が多くなり豊作となることが多い反面、落雷の被害も多くなることから、一年の五穀豊穣と落雷が少ないことを祈願するもので、平安時代から行われている由緒あるお祭りです。