The Lovely Pure Well of Hiji and Nagu Shrine
(In the gazetteer for Tango province it says...)

In the country of Taniwanomichinoshirī.
In the county of Kōri.
In the northwest corner of Kōri ward, there lies Mud Town.

At this town, on the peak of Mt. Hiji [Mt. Mud], there is a well. It’s named “Lovely Pure Well.” Now [at the time of writing], it’s already been turned into a pond.

At this well, eight heavenly maidens fluttered down, wanting to bathe. At that time, there was an elderly couple. Their names were Grandfather and Grandmother Wanasa. These old people came to this well and secretly hid the robe and skirt of one of the heavenly maidens. Thereupon, all of those who had robes and skirts flew up to heaven, but the girl who had neither robe nor skirt remained behind. She concealed herself in the water and was alone and ashamed.

At this, the old man addressed the heavenly maiden, saying: “We haven’t got any children. What we’d like is to make you our child.”

The heavenly maiden replied: “I stayed behind alone in the world of men. How could I not follow you [home]? What I’d like is for you to give me my robe and skirt.”

The old man said, “Heavenly Maiden, why the deceitful heart?”

The heavenly maiden replied, “Well, the intentions of Heavenly People are based on honesty. Why is your heart so suspicious that you won’t let me have my robe and skirt?”

The old man replied, “To be highly suspect and dishonest are the ways of this world. That’s why my heart is thus disinclined to return them,” and he finally gave them back to her. Then, she accompanied them home, and they lived together for more than ten years.

By the by, the heavenly maiden was good at brewing rice wine. When one drank a single cup, myriad ailments were dispelled. (...)

The rewards she received for one cup she piled into a cart and sent [to the old couple]. In this way, the household grew wealthy, and the very mud itself grew prosperous. That’s why it’s called Mud Town. From that time until now, this has been known as Mud Town.

Afterwards, the old man and woman said to the heavenly maiden: “You aren’t our child. You just lived with us for a while. Get out of here at once and go away.”

At this, the heavenly maiden looked up at the heavens and cried, and she lay down on the earth and cried; then she said to the old people, “I didn’t come here of my own accord. This is what you old people wished for. Why this loathing? Why must I suddenly know the pain of being driven out?”

The old man grew increasingly angry and asked her to leave.

With tears streaming down, the heavenly maiden finally left the gate [of the house] and departed. She said to the townspeople, “I’ve been sunk in the world of men for a long time and can’t return to heaven. And since I don’t have any parents, I don’t know where to turn. What shall I do? What shall I do?” She wiped away hear tears and sighing, looked up at the heavens and recited:

*High plain of heaven,*
*When I gaze afar aloft,*
*A mist rises—*
*I mistake the path home,*
*And am utterly lost.*
At last she departed and went to the village of “Wild Currents.” Then she said to the Wild Currents villagers, “When I think of the hearts of that old man and old woman, my own heart is no different than a wild current.” Thus it is called Wild Currents Village, Mud Town. She also went to Crying Tree Village, Taniwa Town and approached a zelkova tree, crying. That’s why it’s called Crying Tree Village.

She also went to Calm Village, Boat-tree Town, Bamboo-grove County. There she said to the villagers, “Here, my heart has grown calm. Of old, peaceful good things were called nagushi [calm].” And she stayed in this village. This is said to be the Toyoukanome Deity ensconced in the Nagu shrine of Bamboo-grove County.