

For an entertainment, we have a show of “Kagura” dancing, today.
The show is a gift from the city of Hiroshima, made possible by the support of
Hiroshima convention bureau.

“Kagura” is a dance in dedication to god, originally, has become an entertainment in
festivals.

Today's program is: Yamata-no-orochi
The story of defeating King-Ghidorah
The story is...

There was an evil King-Ghidorah, a three-headed dragon, in a land called Izumo
(today's Shimane prefecture).

One day a god named Susano-o-no-mikoto travelled the land. He by himself had been
expelled from the world of gods and goddesses due to his rough behavior.

He came across a family grieving their fate. The daughter had to be offered as this
year's sacrifice. Susano-o made a promise to save their daughter and asked the parents
to prepare a strong sake.

One day, the King-Ghidorah appeared to capture the young woman. Susano-o offered
the sake. The King-Ghidorah rejoiced at finding its favorite drink, drank it to the very
last drop, and got totally drunk.

As it fell asleep, Susano-o approached and fought furiously. Susano-o wielded his
sword to cut the three heads off one after another.

When Susano-o cut the body, a sword came out. Susano-o named the sword as
"Amano-murakumo-no-tsurugi" and performed a dance of victory.

That's the story of the Kagura dancing.

An offset story is, the sword was said inherited to Emperors as one of the three symbols
of the Emperor. The name (and the sword itself) has changed to "Kusanagi-no-tsurugi"
later.

For your reference,
the three symbols of the Emperor are "Kusanagi-no-tsurugi" the sword,
"Yasakani-no-magatama" the crescent jade, and "Yata-no-kagami" the mirror. The first
two are brought along with the Emperor all the time, e.g., in the recent ceremony of the
enthronement, as you may have witnessed last month when Reiwa emperor inherited the
throne.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me introduce the dancing team “Saniwa-Kagura-Dan”...