

5 Scariest Japanese Urban Legends Caught On Camera!

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INTRO:

Legends never die, especially when they're already dead. Every culture has its folklore, and the ancient culture of Japan is no exception. People love scaring each other, and scaring themselves with scary stories. From a beautiful but tragic park filled with bodies to a poem confirmed as cursed by its author, here are the 5 Scariest Japanese Urban Legends Caught on Camera!

MAIN CONTENT:

5 - Suicide Forest

It sounds like the name of a slow, sludgy heavy metal song, but it's actually a beautifully dark tourist destination. Aokigahara, or the Sea of Trees is a tranquil park on the northwest side of Mount Fuji in Japan. It's better known as the Suicide Forest, a destination for people who have chosen to take their lives. The idea of visiting a forest to end one's suffering is oddly peaceful, but the thought of visiting and unexpectedly finding a horrific scene is unsettling!

It's legendary, but not entirely of legend, this is a real place where hundreds of people are known to have taken their lives. Recordkeeping of suicides began in 1950. The 1960 novel *Kuroi Yukai* by Seicho Matsumoto romanticized the Sea of Trees, and was correlated to an increase in suicides. Another current wave in suicides is linked to economic downturn. Hundreds of suicides are recorded each year.

One video shocked audiences online when vlogger Logan Paul made the Suicide Forest the topic of a video. In what some call a poorly thought out stunt, and others call a tragedy, Paul planned a filming New Years Eve 2017 and it didn't go as expected, or so he claims. He and his crew found a dead body in a shocking video that some say went too far. They happened upon a man who had hung himself in a tree, and chose to post the footage.

Although there is usually more respect for the dead, there is also respect for life. The sign at the entrance addresses potentially suicidal visitors, and asks them to reconsider. Signs on trees say encouraging things like "Think of your loved ones", and "life is a gift". One thing that makes the forest especially creepy could be a natural feature – there is an abundance of minerals in Mount Fuji, which sometimes throws off compasses and other devices. Maybe it attracts the negative energy within us?

https://997thefox.iheart.com/featured/morgen/content/2018-01-02-suicide-forest-stunt-goes-horribly-wrong/?cmd=managed_social

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIHvA1r0kHA>)

4 – Tomino’s Hell The Haunted Poem

Tomino’s Hell is an epic poem that was lost to obscurity and then resurfaced on 2chan boards with rumors that anyone who reads it aloud is cursed. Or so the legend says. Researching this story proves its origin is mysterious as its prose.

A Texas University professor claims “Tomino’s Hell” was published, we discovered, in a 1919 collection of poetry by Saijō Yaso titled Sakin or Gold Dust. The creepypasta article claims that Yomota Inuhiko published an anthology called "The Heart is Like a Rolling Stone" including “Tomino’s Hell”. Yomota Inuhiko wasn’t born until the topic of the poem is quite dark. It’s about a boy, Tomino, who thinks he is in love with his little sister. He is cast into hell and suffers level after level of Hell.

Legend has it that the poem is cursed, and if someone reads it aloud, terrible things will start to happen. Accidents, bad luck, even early death. A video exists of a reading of the poem, and it goes viral over and over when friends dare one another to read along. Chain letters are a traditional way for people to connect, to take part in superstitions that bring us together. Many began to write off the curse of Tomino’s Hell as a trumped up chain letter exceptionally good at helping friends mess with each other, but its author is still alive to comment.

In 2004 Yomota Inuhiko claimed “If you by chance happen to read this poem out loud, after you will suffer from a terrible fate which cannot be escaped.” The director of a movie inspired by this poem died, and it’s rumored a college student died after she read it aloud. Do you dare to read it?

(http://creepypasta.wikia.com/wiki/Tomino's_Hell

<https://youtu.be/hdcNKhPCT1o>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inuhiko_Yomota

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAx2vGMlj64>)

3 - Teke Teke

Japanese folklore is full of onryō, or vengeful spirits. Ghost women are a whole category of urban legend within all of the onryō, Bloody Mary, ghost brides, jilted women who jumped to their death, and of course spirits of creepy little schoolgirls.

The legend of Teke-teke has some slightly different variations, but the core story is always the same. It goes that a young school-aged woman fell onto a train track, presumably a commuter train not a cargo train. She was sliced in half by a train, and her legless spirit haunts the scene. The ghost girl pulls herself around on her arms and elbows, and her body makes a screeching sound as she drags along.. teke teke!

If you encounter this spirit at night, she will attack and take her vengeance. She is looking for revenge against the people who allowed her accident to occur, so if she finds you alone at night she will chase you down and cut you in half. In some versions, she has a scythe.

One version of teke teke claims her name was Kashima Reiko and she stalks public bathrooms. Missing her legs, she is attracted to the legs she sees under the stall doors. Very freaky for jumpy people using a public restroom to think about! Kashima Reiko chooses a victim in the stall next to her and asks a question. In some versions, she asks where her legs are. Some say if you tell her they are on the Meishin Expressway she will be satisfied by that. Or some say if you reply "kamen shinin ma", or "mask death demon" it sends her away.

If you were freaked out by The Ring or had an older kid taunt you about calling Bloody Mary, you can imagine how freaked out Japanese kids are when someone creeps up on them and screeches "Teke Teke!" Oh by the way, it is also said once you learn about Kashima Reiko, she will appear to you within one month, so I hope you were paying attention to the questions!

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=em6xrd9721k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iy5yPXR2Pts>

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teke_Teke

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQtJo3HGXns>)

2 - Kuchisake Onna: the Slit-mouthed woman

Something about a disfigured face resonates so deeply in the core of what makes us afraid.

The Slit-mouthed woman is another female onryō, this time an adult woman. She walks among the living during the daytime with a covering on her face. Sometimes it's a scarf, but in many depictions it's a surgical mask. She is usually drawn as a fashionable woman with long hair and pretty eyes, and she carries a long thin knife. In all of the stories, she will ask her victims a question. Like teke-teke, there are few right answers and many responses that will lead to terror.

"Watashi, kirei?" she will ask, which means 'am I pretty?' If you answer yes, she will reveal her face. She is disfigured with a Glasgow smile, deep gashes radiating out from the corners of her mouths. It is a garish site, clearly a deliberate wounding. Since you answered yes, she will cut your face like hers.

If you answer no, she will take out the blade and kill you on the spot.

Some say there are neutral answers to evade the yes/no dilemma. You can say she's average, and judge the hostility in her. Other versions of the legend say she can be distracted with an offering of money or candy.

Her origin varies, some say she was an unfaithful wife disfigured by her husband. Other tellings say she was the concubine of a great samurai, and it's assumed she tried to escape.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQ6Uv183hO4>

In Hindi (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46gi6ylkaPY>)

1 – Aka Manto, the Red Mantle

This is another spirit that stalks in bathrooms. Like most urban legends there are some variations. Sometimes it's called the Red Mask, sometimes the Red Cloak or Red Vest even.

The common thread in all of these stories is, like the slit-mouthed woman, he asks a question. Aka Manto will stand outside of your bathroom stall – oh by the way this ghost also stalks bathrooms, that's a really common fear playing to our vulnerable moments, isn't it? So he approaches someone using the stall and asks if they want red toilet paper or blue toilet paper.

This demon isn't so old that it predates toilet paper, apparently. How you answer determines what the Red Mantle does next. If you say red, he slices you open, covering you in red blood. Sometimes, in the Red Vest versions, the bloodstreaks resemble a vest on the victim's clothing.

If the victim chooses blue, Aka Manto will strangle the person to death, turning their face blue. Sometimes the strangulation is done with the victim's own clothing, sometimes with the paper.

Some look for a third option, and consider staying silent. In that event, a force, sometimes in the shape of a hand, will reach up from the toilet and pull your soul into the underworld. A fate worse than death for those who try to trick Aka Manto and fail. The only agreed-upon way to survive an encounter with the Red Mantle is to say "no paper."

Aka Manto is a yōkai, a spirit or specter. It's not considered a vengeful spirit, because the legend doesn't include how the demon came to be, if it's seeking revenge, or if it was ever human.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdywDalMQal>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcgBa2zdD4A>)

OUTTRO:

Do you believe in spirits like the yōkai and the onryō? Which urban legend scares you the most? Also, check out our other cool stuff showing up on screen now. See you next time.