

Deity Daikoku

People place branched radish at their Buddhist alters every 10th night of January. This ritual based on the tale that the Deity Daikoku and a kind girl. The Deity Daikoku was about to die as he ate too many rice cakes, and the God advised him to eat some raw radish. As he did not have any radish, he went out to find some, and he saw a girl washing radishes at the river.

Daikoku asked her to give him one, but the girl replayed that was impossible as her master strictly counted the number of the radishes. Since Daikoku looked so sad of her words, she told him, “Don’t worry Dear Deity, here is a branched radish.” The girl tried to find a branched radish, so that she can broke off the thin stick of radish for Daikoku. The girl saved Daikoku’s life with the branched radish.

[Kunio Yanagida, Gleanings form the Tales of Tōno, no. 276.]