

Old Lady of Noboto *noboto-no basama*

Just the same as in other countries, women and children often had gone somewhere at dusk. One day, the girl at the house in the place known as Noboto (or Samuto) in the Matsuzaki village had suddenly disappeared leaving her straw sandals under the pear tree. Around thirty years later, she turned up at the gathering of her relatives. People asked her what made her decided to come back, and she answered that she wanted to meet them. Once she met her relatives, she soon had gone without leaving any trace behind. It was a windy day when she turned up and gone. The windy days still reminded the people in the Tōno village of the old lady of Noboto.

[Kunio Yanagida, *Tales of Tōno*, no. 8.]