

Nationally-designated important intangible folk-cultural property

“U-sama Dochu” (Sacred Cormorant’s Processuon)

“U-sama Festival”

16th December 3:00 in the morning

Sacrificing

“U-sama” bearing the prayer of people proceeds before the God to devote its most important thing, namely its own life.



Oracle of “U-sama”

Telling the fortune of the next year from actions of “U-sama” that cannot be predicted by a human being.

Releasing alive

Shinto priests and attendants eat together the offerings to God. People are believed to become one with God through eating offerings together. “U-sama” accomplished the important duty will be released to sea by merciful heart.



Naorai (feast) = God and people eat together

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3

Traditional custom,
“U-sama Festival of Keta”
Held in December every year



2 nights and 3 days!
Marching to Keta Taisha Shrine in

Goal

Keta Taisha Shrine



1

Capture of a Cormorant

A cormorant is captured alive using a special method, which has been traditionally handed down, in such a way as from a father to only one of his sons. The captured cormorant deified as Sacred Cormorant (we call it “U-sama” in Japanese).



2

Solicit contributions for Keta Taisha Shrine.

Utoribee group call repeatedly “Uttoriibee”, “Utoribee” while one of them carries “U-sama” on his back. People around there entrust “U-Sama” with their prayer of wish.

Although the origin of “U-sama Festival” is not clear, Toshiie Maeda, the first feudal lord of Kaga Domain (past Governance of present Ishikawa Prefecture) placed high importance on the “U-sama Festival” even by donating paddy field with the area of 2,000 m2 to Utoribee group for raising cormorants. Hearing that Sacred Cormorant of the festival of a certain year proceed before God more willingly than usual, the lord was very pleased, saying “There is nothing more auspicious than this for the region of Noto.” A document recording above is kept even now in Keta Taisha Shrine.