CHAPTER 10

KOJIKI STORIES OF ROYALTY



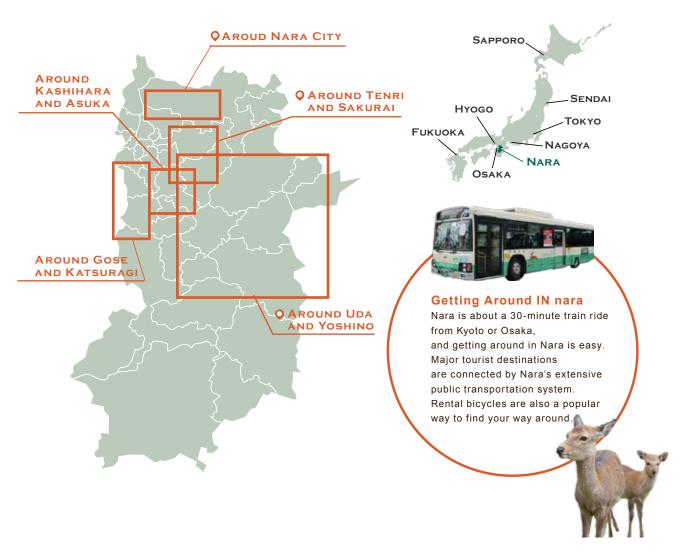
SERVANT'S SEARCH FOR THE FRUIT OF ETERNAL LIFE

During the reign of Emperor Suinin, the Emperor sent his loyal servant Tajima-mori to bring back the fruit of the fragrant tree that knows no season and was said to be growing in the land of immortals. Tajima-mori set out to travel far into the Everworld. After a long and arduous journey, he finally found the tree. Tajima-mori picked a number of branches filled with fruit and brought them back for the Emperor.

When he returned, he learned that the Emperor had already passed away. Tajima-mori presented some branches to the Empress and took the rest to the tomb of Emperor Suinin.

There, holding the fruit in his hand, Tajima-mori broke down and cried. He mourned the loss of the Emperor so deeply that he died at the tomb.

NARA AREA MAP



Mausoleum of Emperor Suinin

O AROUD NARA CITY

Tajima-mori died on this mound, mourning the death of Emperor Suinin. The small island in the canal became known as the Tomb of Tajima-mori. (Nara City)

Muromiyayama Tumulus

Q AROUND GOSE AND KATSURAGI

This large decorative tomb is believed to have been used by the ancestors of the Katsuragi clan who appear in *Kojiki* stories. It symbolizes the clan's political power. (Gose City)

Toshodaiji Temple

O AROUD NARA CITY

This temple, next to the Tomb of Emperor Suinin, was built in 759 A.D. by Ganjin, a Tang-period Chinese priest, for training Buddhist monks. (Nara City)