

Eye Drops of Kuroda



In Ryotaro Shiba's novel "Harima Nada Monogatari," there is a story that the Sengoku period military commander Kanbei Kuroda's parents were eye drug shops, and the author, R. Shiba, also grew up as the second son of a pharmacist in Osaka.

The Kuroda family's birthplace was located in Kinomoto Kuroda, Omi Province, and in those days it was known that pouring a liquid made from the bark of the megusurinoki tree into the eyes was effective against conditions such as what is now known as conjunctivitis. Some of the descendants of the Omi Kuroda family later moved to Fukuoka of Bicchū (western part of Okayama Prefecture), and when they made and sold Kanbei's grandfather, Satotaka, they were sold and made a fortune. It is said in "Harima-nada Monogatari" that they became a powerful ruling family. Afterwards, Satotaka moved to Gochaku (current Himeji City). Satotaka, who was in great poverty at the time, was lucky enough to sell "Reishuko," an eye drop that had been handed down in the Kuroda family. Satotaka served the lord of the castle, Masamoto Kōdera, and his eldest son Motonaka Kuroda, who succeeded him, was highly trusted by the lord and was given the surname Kōdera. This led to the birth of Kanbei.



In this way, in the novel, the Kuroda family's family fortunes improved thanks to the huge success of the Kuroda family's heirloom eye drops, "Reishuko" and they walked the path of becoming powerful military commanders. After many twists and turns, they luckily reached the Meiji Restoration. Until then, he continued to exist as a daimyo of the Chikuzen domain with a wealth of 500,000 koku. Recent studies have shown that the decoction of the medullion tree contains antioxidant and antibacterial components and is effective against conjunctivitis, eye wounds, meibo, and eye strain. All but a few of these famous medicines, which have been passed down in

Japan since ancient times, are disappearing, which makes me feel a little sad.