

Reunion of Parent and Child

Mrs. Yuki Kawauchi

I was born in 1896. I was 49 years old when I experienced the atomic bomb. I was living with my daughter and son in Zenzamachi. My oldest son had been drafted, my husband had died 4 or 5 years before and my second son was already dead too.

On August 9th, I went to Doinokubi to dig a shelter with the neighborhood association in the morning and we were on our way home about noon. Two airplanes were flying over and as soon as we rushed into a shelter, there was a flash and we were exposed to the blue light. When I hurried home, the tatami mats were turned over, windows were blown out, and everything in the house was broken and messy. I looked around and finally found my husband's and my son's *Ihai* [Buddhist memorial] tablets under a broken chest of drawers and took them as I evacuated to Shotoku Temple. Fire was shooting up from everywhere and my house was on fire too.

Night came and we went into the shelter which we had dug that morning. My sister's family and a few other people and I stayed there for a few days. My daughter was working at Mitsubishi Munitions back then, but I couldn't get in touch with her after the bomb so she was missing. I asked a friend who worked for Mitsubishi Munitions for some information about her. The information I got was that the "People who were seriously injured had been taken to a hospital in Isahaya. She could be there."

But outside was still dangerous, so there was no way to find out. On the other hand, my son had been evacuated with my neighbor to a place near Himi Tunnel so he came home safely with no

injuries a few days later.

A few days passed and my sister who I was living with decided to go to Ureshino, and her husband came to pick her up. Then I found out my daughter had been looked after by my brother in Ureshino, so I went to Ureshino. At the same time, my daughter was on her way to Nagasaki so we passed [and missed] each other.

At Nagayo Station, my neighbor told her “Your mother left to go to Ureshino.” But she went to Nagasaki to see how things were there and came back to Ureshino so we could reunite again.

Since the war had started I had been sending my kimono to my brother’s house for safe keeping little by little, but because we evacuated after the atomic bomb with nothing but the clothes I was wearing - not even shoes, I made *monpe* [work pants] from them and put them on my children.

[Location at Bombing: Zenzamachi]