

8. Kataonami Park, Man'yo-no-Komichi Promenade (Vol. 7-1213)

Monument Text

nagusayama kotonishiarikeri agakoino chienohitoemo nagusamenakuni

Explanation

This poem is from volume seven of the classical Japanese poetry collection *Man'yōshū* (poem number 1213). In front of this monument you can see the gently rounded and dignified figure of Mount Nagusa, which sits to the east of Wakaura Bay. The sight of this mountain along with the calm ocean and never-ending blue sky stretching out before them surely captivated and comforted the hearts of the creatives that visited this area.

The author associates the mountain's name with the term *nagusa*, which holds the meaning of one's heart being comforted. However, it seems that even after heading for Mount Nagusa, they did not feel consoled. The author writes, "Mount Nagusa's comfort is only in name, for it does nothing to console my aching, love-struck heart."

Being in love was painful and difficult during the period of the *Man'yōshū*, and unfortunately it seems that Mount Nagusa was not able to bring the author solace.

The inscription on the monument is the work of Hieda Kazuho.