

# Panel Summaries

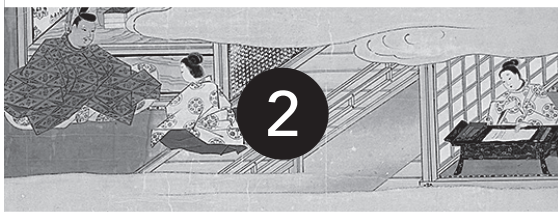
Exhibit no. 8:

*Illustrated Legends of Tenmangū* (Enjuōin version)

## Scroll 1



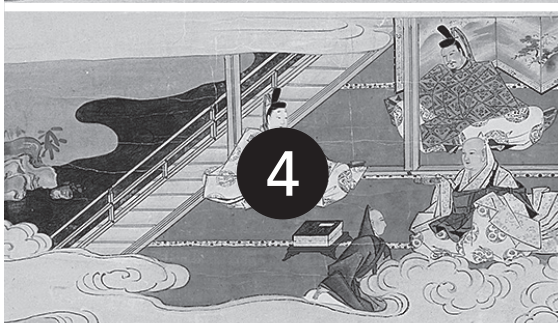
1 A mysterious child appears in the nobleman Sugawara no Koreyoshi's home in Kyoto, and is adopted as his son, Sugawara no Michizane (Tenjin).



2 Michizane writes his first poem at age 11.



3 At the tender age of 18, Michizane is admitted to a school for aspiring government officials.

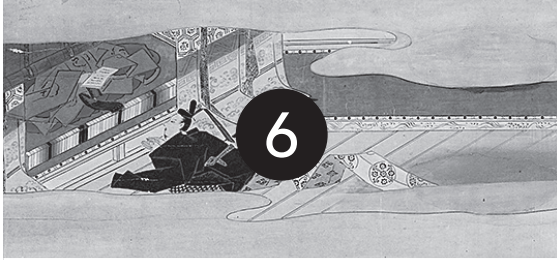


4 At around 21–22, Michizane composes the prologue for the monk Ennin's *Kenyō daikairon* (*Treatise clarifying and extolling the Mahayana precepts*).



5 At 26, Michizane participates in an archery game held in the scholar and poet Miyako no Yoshika's mansion, where he hits the target dead-center with every arrow, proving his prowess in both the literary and military arts.

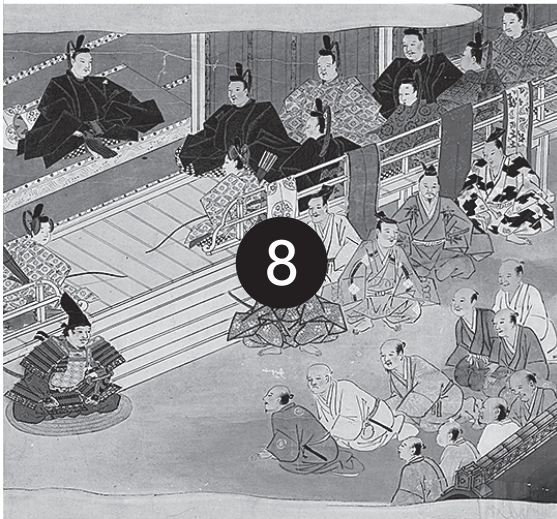
## Scroll 2



6 At 34, Michizane receives an invitation by the regent (*kanpaku*) Fujiwara no Mototsune to pen the prologue to the history text *Nihon Montoku Tennō jitsuroku* (*The true history of Emperor Montoku of Japan*).



7 While on a hunting trip with Emperor Uda, Michizane wonders if animals had previously wronged humankind, thereby questioning the basis on which they are hunted by people. He then petitions for the emperor to spare them.



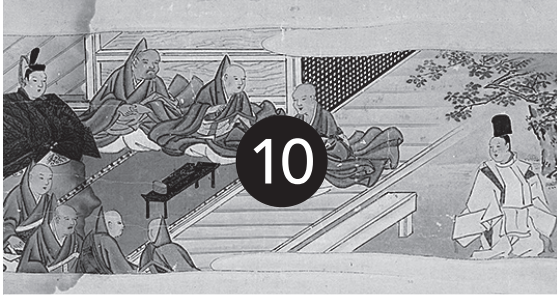
8 At 42, Michizane is appointed as the governor of Sanuki Province, and serves his term there well.



9 At 46, Michizane returns to the capital of Kyoto after his four-year term at Sanuki.



## Scroll 3



- 10 During the Buddhist lecture held at Kisshōin Temple for Michizane's 50th birthday, an old man appears out of nowhere and presents him a Buddhist sutra alongside some gold. These turn out to be presents from Emperor Uda.



- 11 At 51, Michizane accomplishes the feat of writing ten poems in two hours at the request of Crown Prince Atsuhiro (later Emperor Daigo); the next year, he composes twenty poems in four hours.



- 12 At 54, Michizane accompanies Emperor Uda, now retired, to visit the Tamukeyama Hachimangū Shrine in Nara, where he also composes a poem.

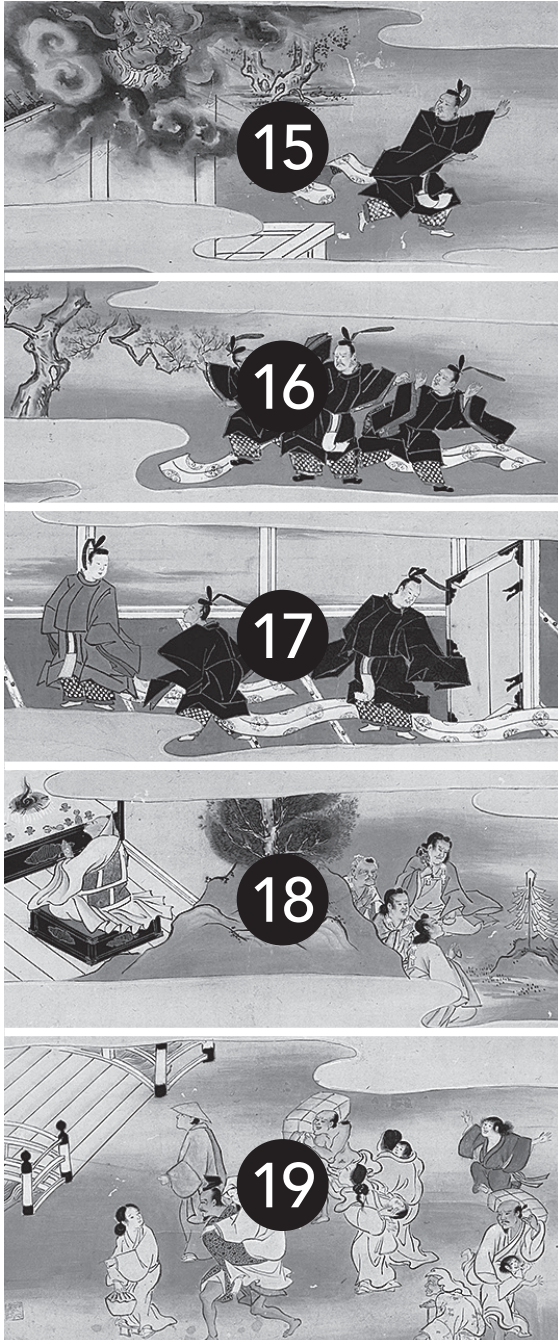


- 13 At 53, he becomes the chief counselor of state (*dainagon*).



- 14 At 55, he becomes the minister of the right (*udaijin*).

## Scroll 4



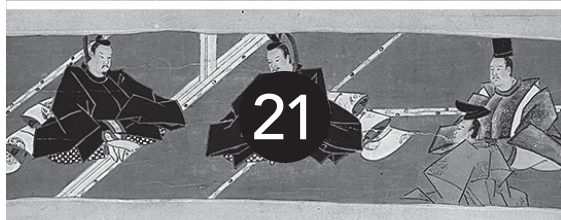
- 15** Michizane exposes Miyako no Yoshika for presenting a whole poem as his own. Yoshika had only composed the first half of the poem, and the second half had actually been composed by the demon at the Rajōmon Gate, just as he was passing through to get to the palace. Michizane sees through Yoshika's ruse, and brings the truth to light.
- 16** The minister of the left (*sadaijin*), Fujiwara no Tokihira, and the chief counselor, Tomo no Yoshio (also known as Ban Dainagon), mock Michizane for his short stature. Michizane responds by punching them both in the face.
- 17** Jealous of Michizane's promotion, a few courtiers including Tokihira and Fujiwara no Sugane plot against him in secret.
- 18** Tokihira performs various rituals in an attempt to curse Michizane to death.
- 19** Unrest ripples through the streets of Kyoto as rumors of Michizane's treason spread.



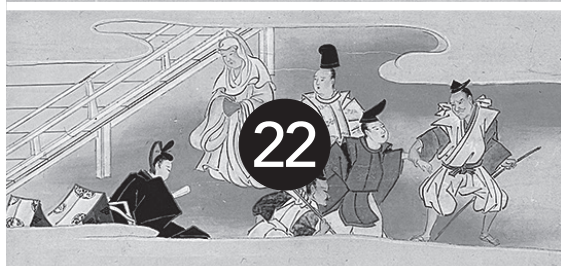
## Scroll 5



20 Tokihira accuses Michizane of treason before Emperor Daigo.



21 At 57, Michizane is exiled from Kyoto.



22 Retired emperor Uda tries to visit Emperor Daigo to convince him to rethink his decision to exile Michizane, but is thwarted by Sugane.

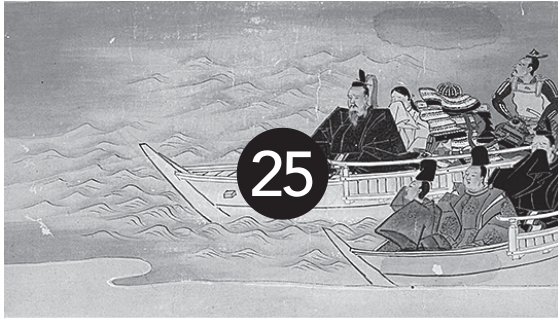


23 Michizane bids farewell to the plum and cherry trees in his Kyoto mansion.

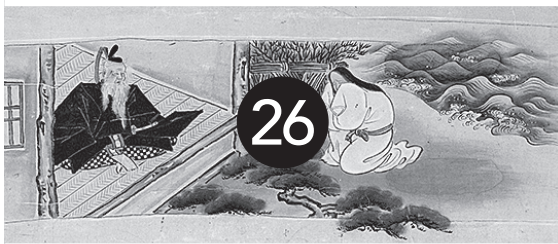


24 Michizane leaves Kyoto for Dazaifu, riding an oxcart.

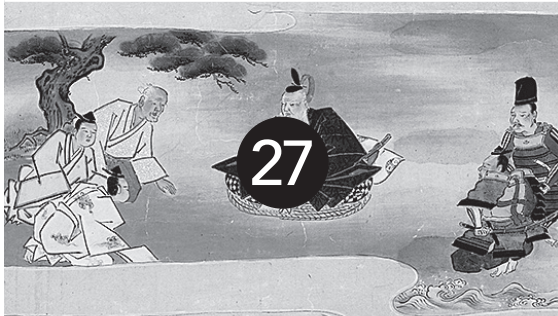
## Scroll 6



25 Michizane sails across the Setouchi Sea on his way to Dazaifu.



26 Michizane reaches the post town of Akashi in Harima Province (present-day Hyōgo Prefecture). The chief of the town is shocked at how different he looks from before, but treats him as a valued guest nevertheless.



27 Michizane and his entourage reach Hakata in Chikuzen Province (present-day Fukuoka Prefecture). Michizane disembarks for a rest, but without a mat to sit on, he can only coil mooring lines from his ship into a makeshift mat.



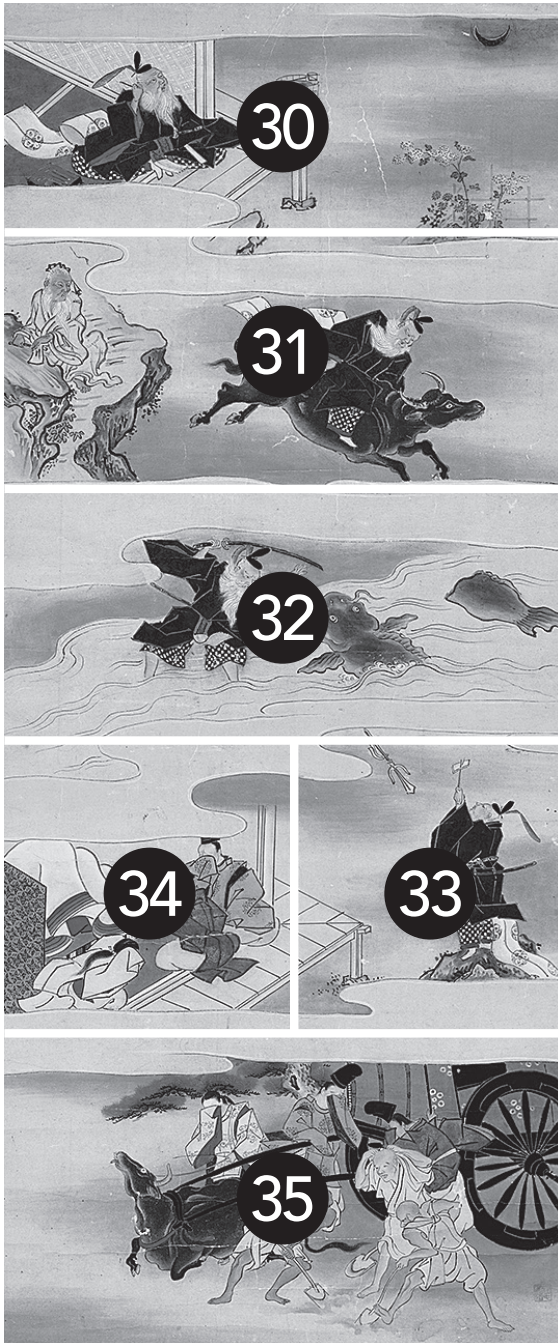
28 On his way to Dazaifu, Michizane catches his own haggard appearance reflected in the river and laments over how he looks like a corpse.



29 Michizane and his entourage reach Dazaifu and are seeking shelter at a household. The head of the house tries to turn them away, but his wife quickly invites them in and serves them *kōji* rice.



## Scroll 7



**30** Michizane writes poems in Dazaifu while thinking of Kyoto.

**31** In order to plead his innocence, Michizane stands under the waterfall at the foot of Mt. Tenpai for fifty days straight. On his way home, he meets an old man using a rock to file a hatchet into a needle. At this, Michizane realizes that he is lacking in conviction, and thus returns to the waterfall.

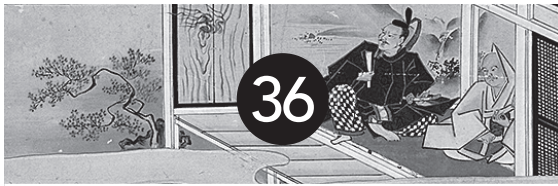
**32** While crossing a swamp, Michizane encounters a giant catfish that has been making life difficult for other travelers. Since it is also blocking his way, he cuts it in half, and the halves turn to stone.

**33** Michizane pleads his innocence before the heavens at the top of Mt. Tenpai near Dazaifu, and, when it is accepted, becomes Tenma Daijizai Tenjin.

**34** At 59, Michizane passes away with his pleas of innocence unheard by those in power.

**35** The ox pulling the cart carrying Michizane's remains stops in the middle of the road and refuses to move, so he is buried at that spot.

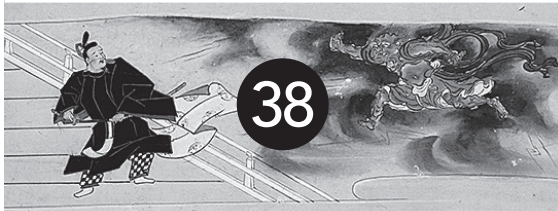
## Scroll 8



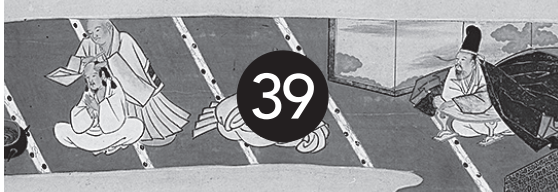
**36** Michizane's spirit appears before Son'i, an abbot of the Tendai Sect, and attempts to lead him astray from his Buddhist practices. When Son'i refuses to succumb, Michizane spits a pomegranate from his mouth. The pomegranate spontaneously combusts.



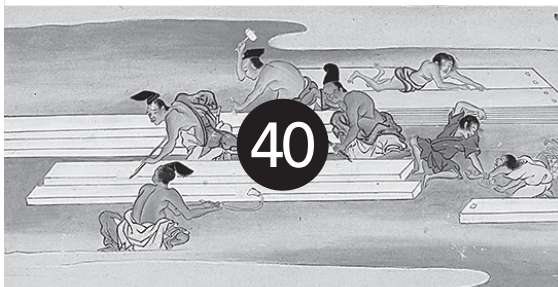
**37** On his way to visit the palace, Son'i passes by the Kamogawa River. The river, which has been flooded for a while now, parts for him.



**38** Michizane's vengeful spirit manifests as a god of storms and brings lightning down on the Seiryōden, where the emperor resides. Tokihira brandishes a sword to face off with him.



**39** Tokihira lays in bed, sick. Those around him pray for his recovery, but are thwarted by the Azure Dragon of the East, and Tokihira soon passes away.



**40** Workers build a shrine above Michizane's grave in Dazaifu.



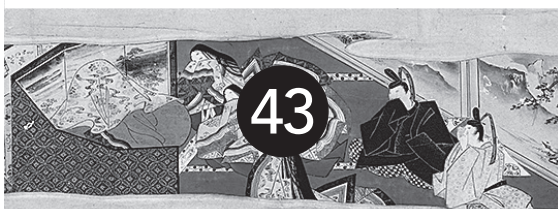
**41** Minamoto no Kintada, a nobleman poet, dies a sudden death and revives three days later to convey Michizane's pleas of innocence from the underworld to Emperor Daigo.



## Scroll 9



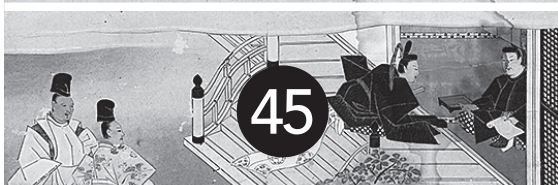
42 A storm god causes lightning to strike the Seiryōden again, killing a few people.



43 Emperor Daigo abdicates to become a Buddhist priest, and dies soon after.

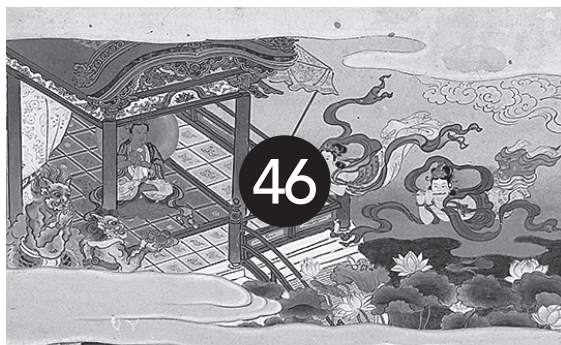


44 The palace grounds go up in flames for the third time in seven years. During the process of rebuilding it, workers discover Michizane's poem chewed into the wood by insects.



45 Emperor Suzaku sends a representative to Anrakuji Temple (present-day Dazaifu Tenmangū Shrine) to bestow upon the late Michizane the posthumous rank of minister of the left, then grand councilor (*dajō-daijin*) the following year.

## Scroll 10



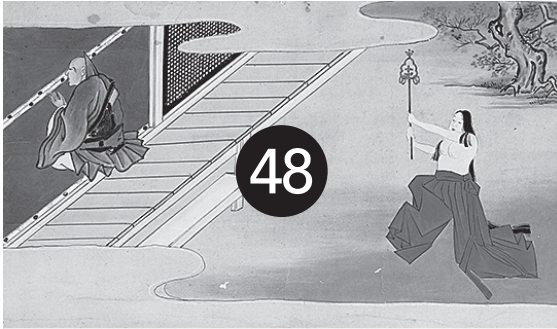
**46** On Mt. Kinpu in Nara, the monk Nichizō is going Buddhist austerities when he dies a sudden death. He passes through the Six Realms of Rebirth before being revived thirteen days later. This scene depicts him meeting Michizane, who has become the deity Daijōitokuten.



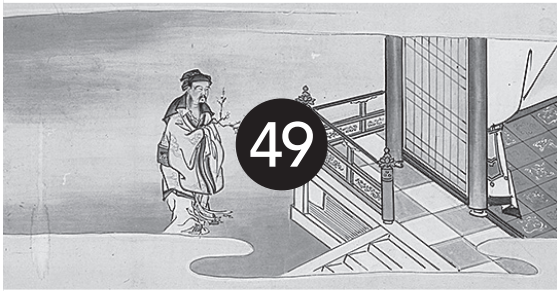
**47** Nichizō as he passes through Hell, one of the Six Realms.



## Scroll 11



**48** Suspected of having feelings for a woman, the monk Ninshun prays at the Kitano Tenmangū Shrine. As he recites a poem, the woman who spread the rumor confesses her lie in a frenzy, proving Ninshun's innocence.



**49** Michizane appears in the Zen monk Enni's dreams, informing him that he wishes to learn the ways of Zen. Enni refers him to the Chinese monk Wuzhun Shifan, and Michizane travels to China, studies Chan (Zen), and returns, all in the span of a night.

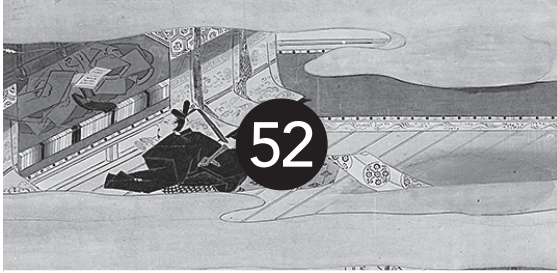


**50** Nawa Akitada, the lord of Yatsushiro district in Higo Province (present-day Kumamoto Prefecture), loses a battle and heads to the capital in Kyoto to make an appeal, but misplaces his document of evidence. He thus visits Anrakuji and offers prayers, after which fishermen discover his document in the belly of a fish.

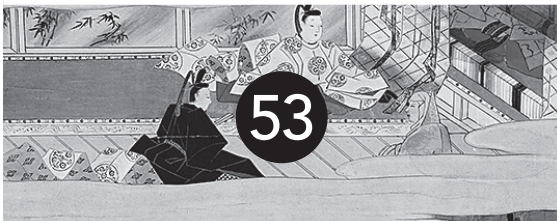


**51** A *jinkōshiki* (god-procession ritual) for Tenjin in progress. This annual ritual at the Dazaifu Tenmangū was initiated by the scholar Ōe no Masafusa.

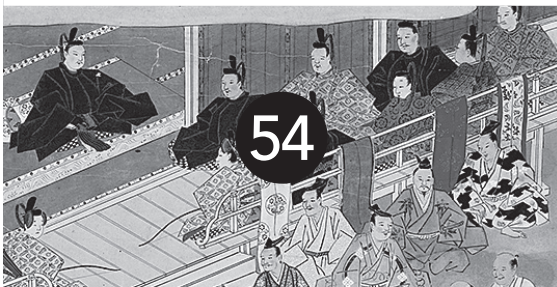
## Scroll 12



**52** Sugawara no Sukemasa, a descendant of Michizane, expands Anrakuji.



**53** Accused of stealing somebody's clothes, a woman prays at the Kitano Tenmangū. Just then, the true culprit, a woman named Shikishima, appears with the stolen clothes, clearing her name.



**54** Ōe no Masafusa organizes the first *jinkōshiki* at Anrakuji.



**55** When the Mongols invaded Japan, the monks of Anrakuji prayed for the invaders to leave by reciting sections from the *Great Perfection of Wisdom Sutra* and composing collaborative poems (*renga*).

