

## *Miduri*

Shigehisa Karimata\*

In the Ryukyuan language, *miduri* is a word that expresses the transformation from a seed to a sprouting shoot, from a tight bud to the blossoming of spring. Even a great tree, with its spreading branches and leaves, beautiful flowers in bloom, and abundant fruits, begins from the small *miduri* that sprouted from a seed.

Sho Iku (1813–1847), a king of the Ryukyu Kingdom, composed a *ryūka*, a traditional Ryukyuan song in short poem form, about the *miduri* that sprouted in winter, which before long would spread its leaves and branches to become a great tree.

The snow covered pine  
Anticipates spring  
*Miduri* sprouting  
These *miduri* will soon flourish for eternity

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\* Professor, University of the Ryukyus