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Nihon no hatadokoro

The phrase 日本の機どころ (Nihon no hatadokoro), often translated as “Japan’s weaving country” or “Japan’s city of looms,” is closely associated with Kiryu. It features prominently in Gunma’s popular culture and encapsulates several centuries of textile specialization. This phrase does not refer to a specific product but to a collective reputation. It expresses the idea that an entire region can be identified with a technical skill. Many cities around the world have been defined by a dominant industry: silk in Lyon, wool in Bradford, carpets in Isfahan. Kiryu belongs to this family of cities whose identity has become inseparable from a productive craft. The phrase serves as a condensed memory of several generations of artisans, merchants, and industrialists. It represents a true cultural motto of the city.