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Month without Gods

November is called Kanna-zuki in the Japanese lunar calendar, and means "month without gods." This is because eight million Japanese gods who take care of the ample harvest and prosperity of people in every region of this country leave their shrines and head for Izumo Taisha in Shimane Prefecture for the annual meeting. (On the contrary, in the Izumo region, this month is known as Kamiari-zuki or "month with gods.") The gods are believed to use winds and clouds to attend the meeting held for a week in Japan's oldest and largest shrine dedicated to the god of marriage, Okuninushi no Mikoto. At the meeting, the gods discuss who should marry who. When the meeting is over, the gods head back to their shrines, using winds and clouds again.

It is said if you visit Izumo Taisha during this period, your wish will easily come true, as all eight million gods are listening to your prayers! **JS**

