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CROWS FALLING FROM THE SKY

The small fishing village of Minamata City is plagued by a series of strange occurrences which seem to foreshadow the coming of an environmental disaster.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Minamata City, Japan—The visions described by inhabitants in Minamata City could not even be imagined by the most creative horror screenwriter: crows falling out of the sky mid-flight flopping helplessly on the ground. "dancing" cats throwing themselves into the oceans, and the nervous fits of dogs and pigs. According to local villagers, these bizarre occurrences have increased over the past year.

Minamata City is one of many small fishing villages along the coast of Minamata Bay, Japan. Minamata Bay is located on the southwest coast of Kyushu, the southern-most main Japanese island. Fishermen and their families are the primary inhabitants of this area. Fishing, agriculture, a slaughterhouse, and a chemical-fertilizer industry are the major industries in the area.



Many questions remain about the cause of this strange behavior among these animals. The most important question seems to be whether or not effects will be seen on humans. This question has not been officially answered by any medical team, but local accounts date back to 1953. According to one local fisherman, "My whole family got sick and died. I did not want to tell anyone because I thought that they must have had an infectious disease and was ashamed."