

## Column

## Walking around Dainichi-do Hall

Dainichi-do Hall was once named Haijima-san Mitsugon Jodo-ji Temple. According to the temple legend, this temple was established when Dainichi-Nyorai (Mahavairocana) was drifted to a sandbank of Tama-gawa River by massive flood in 952. This temple was moved to the current site for the protection of Takiyama Castle (current Takatukimachi Town, Kazumimachi Town, Tankimachi Town, Hachioji City) to guard against devils' intrusion from northeastern direction. The temple buildings were reconstructed by ISHIKAWA Tosa-no-kami, the lord of Takiyama Castle, an entrusted vassal of HOJO Ujiteru, who prayed for the cure of his daughter's eye-disease.

The temple title "Jodo-ji" was lost during the Edo period. When Dainichi-do Hall was rebuilt in 1732, temple buildings were rearranged in current plan and belonged to Fumyo-ji Temple, one of "Dainichi Hachibo" (Eight Sub-Temples around Dainichi-do). It has been unknown when Hiyoshi-jinja Shrine was founded, but the shrine was considered to be built as a guardian shrine, Sanno Daigongen (manifestation of Dainichi Nyorai) in the Tensho era (1573-1593). After the Meiji Restoration, Dainichi-do temple halls of Tendai Sect and Hiyoshi-jinja Shrine, the guardian shrine for Tendai Sect, were separated due to the policy of the separation of Shinto and Buddhism but remain at the same place.

There are principal temple and shrine buildings (Dainichi-do Hall, Yakushi-do Hall, Worship Hall and Main Hall of Hiyoshi-jinja Shrine) on the upland of fluvial terrace of Tama-gawa River, and Nio-mon Gate, a Well, wisteria-pergola (Natural Monument of Tokyo) on lowland. Let's enjoy visiting temples and others including Fujizuka Mound on the west of Hiyoshi-jinja Shrine, Buddhist sculptures enshrined, and sacred cedar grove of the shrine.



## Wooden Statues of Standing Kongo Rikishi, Fumyo-ji Temple

Tangible Cultural Property (sculptures) of Tokyo

Designated on April 28 1964

Changed Category on July 1 on 1976

Two statues of Kongo Rikishi are enshrined at a Nio-mon Gate (Deva Gate) of the temple. The two guardians represents the figures of Agyo, with his mouth open and an expression full of anger, and Ungyo, with his mouth tightly closed in an expression of hiding his anger inwardly. As 'A' is the sound of the first letter and 'Un' is the sound of the last letter of the Sanskrit alphabet, they symbolize the beginning and the end of the universe, or aspiration for Buddha-hood and attained nirvana.

Although these statues were attributed to the work of Unkei based on the record of the "Shinpen Musashi Fudokiko" (A Topography of the Musashi Province, c. 1804-1829), inscriptions bearing a date and name of the sculptor was found inside the statues when they were dismantled for repair in 1975-1977. It reveals that Agyo was made by the Buddhist sculptor Hizenbo in 1315 and Ungyo was made by the Buddhist sculptor Bizen□, sponsored by Yaji Magosaburo SUGAWARA Shigemitsu, who was a manor lord and vassal of the Kamakura Shogunate. Moreover, the inscriptions reading "Keihaku Jodo-ji" prove that a temple called Jodo-ji existed in this area during the Kamakura period.

The facial expressions of the statues are relatively gentle compared with other examples of Kongo Rikishi made during the Kamakura period, rather suggesting the aesthetic of the Heian period. The statues are valuable as surviving examples from the former Musashi Province.



Wooden Statues of Standing Kongo Rikishi