

# Daruma-ji Temple



Around the first half of the 13th century, the temple was initiated on an ancient burial mound that was believed to be a tomb for the resurrected Daruma. A three story pagoda was most likely materialized on the site. The monk called Shogetu was it's founder. The temple was soon oppressed by the predominant temples such as Todai-ji Temple and Kohuku-ji Temple and also devastated by the fires of war however. In the mid 14th century the first large-scale restoration got underway with the governmental sponsorship of the time (Muromachi Shogunate government), and then the second one was done in the mid 17th century.

The exhibition room (main hall) you see today was equipped at the latest reconstruction of 2004.

# Shotoku the story of a starving saint



Referring to this burial mound, the oldest chronicles of Japan and other documents tell of the story of a starving saint.

According to them, a Prince by the name of Shotoku encountered a dying man around the hill called Kataoka-yama on his way back to his palace in Ikaruga from the imperial burial site called the Valley of Shinaga. So he gave some food and his own garments to the starving and shivering man. Days later, he had one of his retinue go see him, and learned he was already dead. He again dispatched his man and had the dead man bury carefully, and subsequently learnt the tomb the man was buried in was empty, leaving the garments neatly folded on his coffin. Then the Prince realized that the starving man must have really been a saint.

Sometime at a much later time, this saint was identified with the resurrected Daruma, and these ancient episodes became the source of building Daruma-ji Temple.

## The main deities of the temple



The main deities of the temple are the following three statues: Daruma, the great master (important cultural property); Shotoku, a prince as well as a devoted Buddhist of the late 6th through the early 7th century(important cultural property); and a bodhisattva of thousand-armed kannon.

Daruma-daishi statue (national important cultural property) : wooden statue painted by Shubun. It was made in 1430 , Muromachi Period

Prince Shotoku statue (national important cultural property) : wooden statue , it was made in 1277, Kamakura Period.

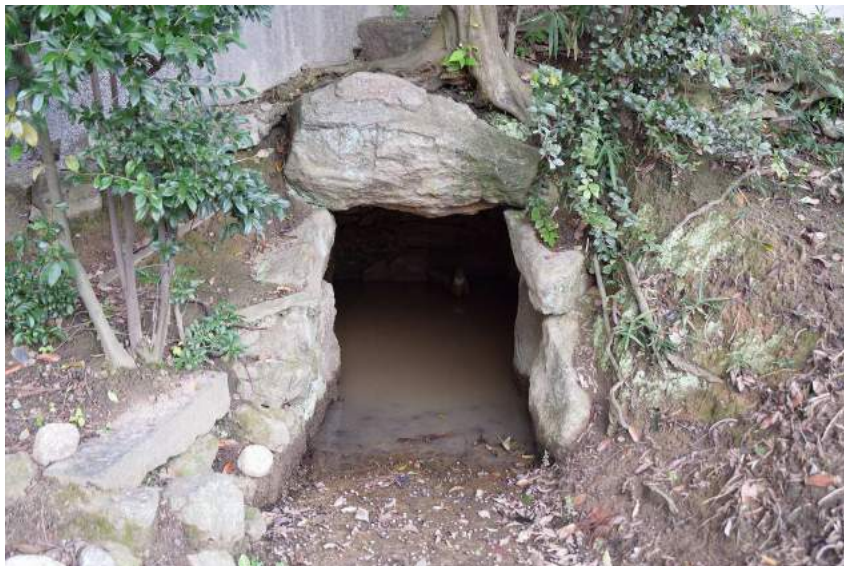
Thousand-hand Kannon ( cultural property designated by Oji-town) : The original Kannon had 500 hands, but 392 hands in the present state of affairs.

## The Stone Inscription(National Important Cultural Property)



The octagonal stone pillar has inscriptions on all sides. It says a monk by the name of Isho of Nanzen-ji Temple in Kyoto wrote the temple's history after the restoration in 1435, and the temple's monk by the name of Nambo Sono engraved it on this stone to erect here in 1448. A stone monument with the date of 1442 , a big jar of Bizen pottery, and an incense burner made of celadon porcelain were unearthed at the time of the excavation in 2000.

## Daruma-ji Temple Ancient Tomb Compound



There are three small-scaled burial mounds at the temple's precinct. One of them is associated with the story of the starving saint.

Today the temple's main hall stands on it. All three mounds were made in the late 6th century.



## The statue of Dear Dog, Yukimaru



Legend says Yukimaru was Prince Shotoku's beloved dog. The statue is believed to be his dog.

It was originally situated at the northeast of the main hall according to his last words, "When I die, bury me at the northeastern corner of the main hall."

Yukimaru was an able dog. He spoke human language and even read sutras.

Today the statue is located at the southwest of the main hall.

Tradition has it that a good harvest is expected when he barks on the first day of January.

This dog is a mascot of the town now that the statue as well as such the episodes greatly contributed to figure his character.



## The stone called Yakushiseki, a Healing Buddha



Close your eyes, walk to the stone, then try to embrace it with both your hands.

When you succeed in it, you will perfectly recover from your sickness. It is a miracle stone.

## The Grave for a Warrior by the Name of Hisahide Matsunaga



He was a warrior of the Age of Provincial Wars (1467-1568).

The temple's document tells he killed himself after being defeated at the nearby mountain, called Shigi-san, and was buried here by his enemy warrior by the name of Junkei Tsutsui.



## Ichiya-dake or Bamboo Rooted Suddenly in One Night



They are goddess bamboo that is equivalent to Horai-chiku in Japanese. Native to tropical and sub-tropical areas such as Southeast countries, Kyushu and Okinawa.

## Daruma Memorial Service



The memorial ceremony has been held on the 2nd Saturday of April every year. Sutra chanting, children's procession, and stalls in the alley, all produce a festive mood.

## The tiny crystal gorin-to excavated in 2002



Prior to the latest restoration, the ground was unearthed for research.

A small stone tower with a removable finial was found right underneath the exhibition showcase.

It was the outermost of the threefold containers. Inside it was a round container, and the last one was a crystal gorin-to (small pagoda) in which a heart-shaped crystal was stowed.

## Hojo



This second restoration commissioned to a warrior, Katsumoto Katagiri, preserved one of the Zen styles, called Hojo or the square chamber.

\* Hojo :10-foot square room for the head priest of the Zen temple.

# Kataoka Samurai Family



Our town is called Oji now. But it was called Kataoka village before. There appeared some Samurai Families around here. One of the most

powerful families was called Kataoka Bushidan

around this area, Kataokayama in later Kamakura period(14<sup>th</sup> century). The most famous samurai of this family was Hachiro Toshikazu Kataoka. He helped Prince Morinaga and fought against the enemy of Emperor Godaigo(96<sup>th</sup> Emperor).

Unfortunately

Toshikazu was killed in battle. This grave is of his, and the other is Harutoshi 's: later Kataoka Family.

CF : the present Emperor is 124<sup>th</sup>