

**Welcome
to
Toyokawa Inari**

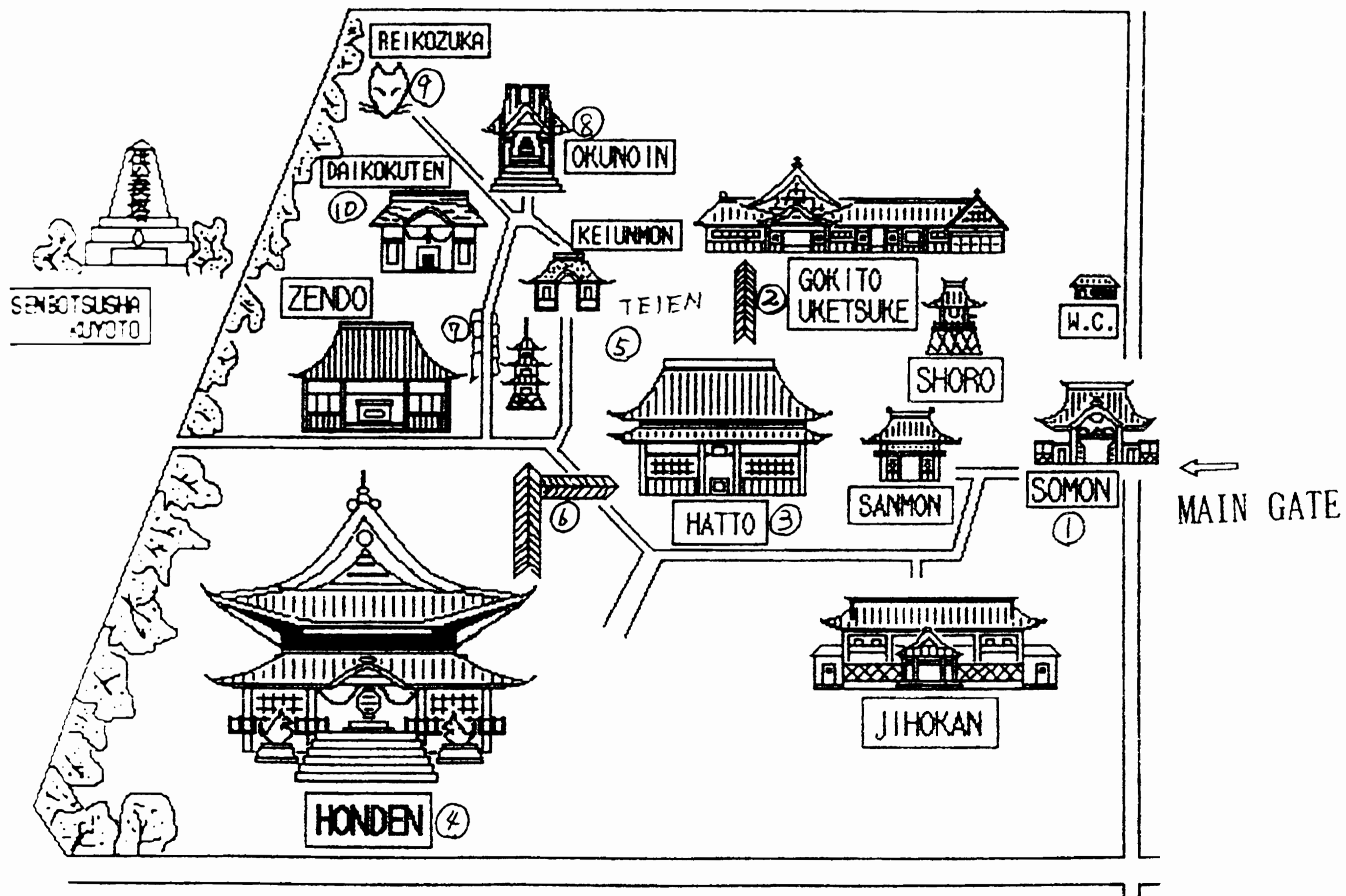


TOYOKAWA INARI

Welcome to Toyokawa Inari.

Toyokawa Inari is actually a combination of a shinto shrine, Toyokawa Inari, and a buddhist temple, Toyokawakaku Myogonji. Over 6 million worshipers visit Toyokawa Inari every year.

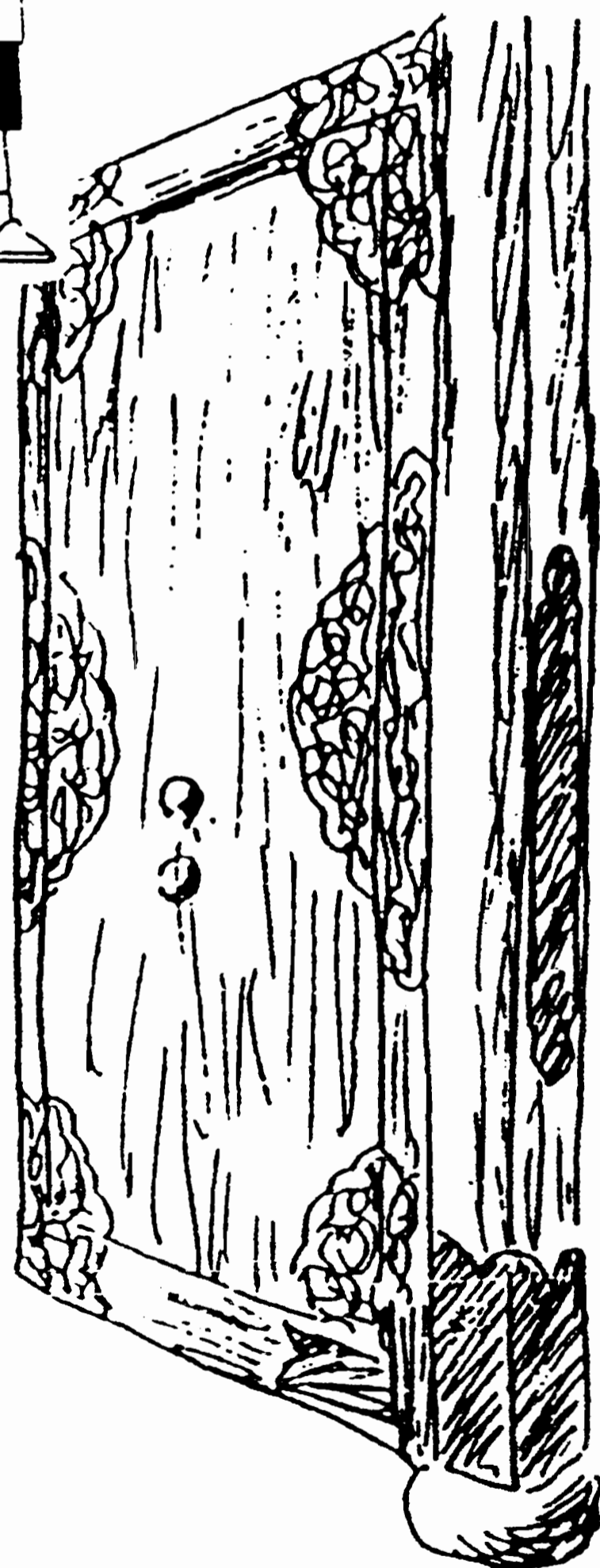
guide map



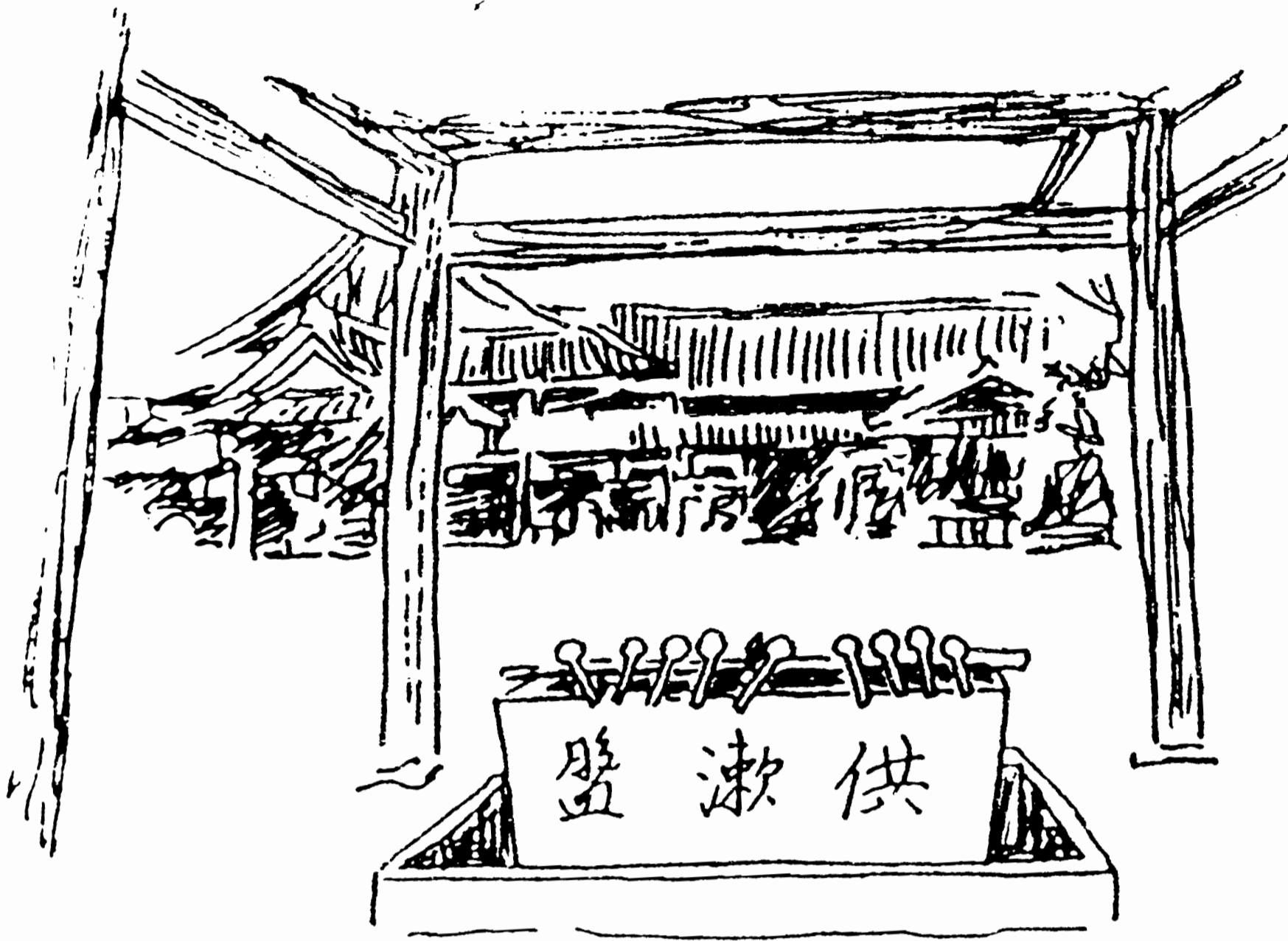


① S o m o n (m a i n g a t e)

This is the main entrance to Toyokawa Inari. The original gate was built more than 500 years ago, while the current one dates back to 1884. Somon (main gate) consists of 4 doors, 2 main doors in the center and 2 side doors. Each door is 5 meters high, 1.8 meters wide and 15 centimeters thick. The material of the doors is Japanese zelkova aged over 1,000 years. The grain and surface is natural and shows the age of the wood.



A reception office for prayer is located on the right behind the bell tower.



2 Prayer

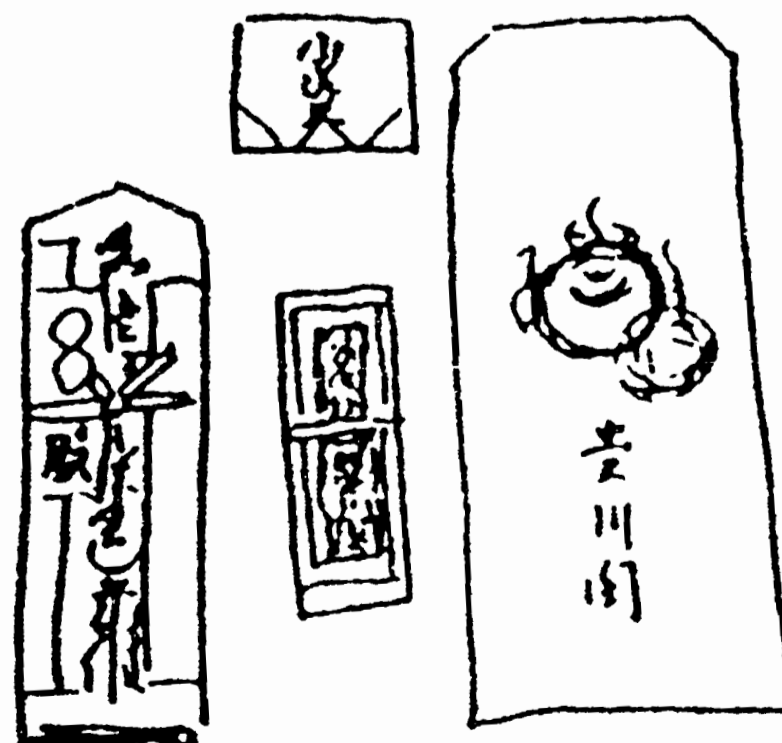
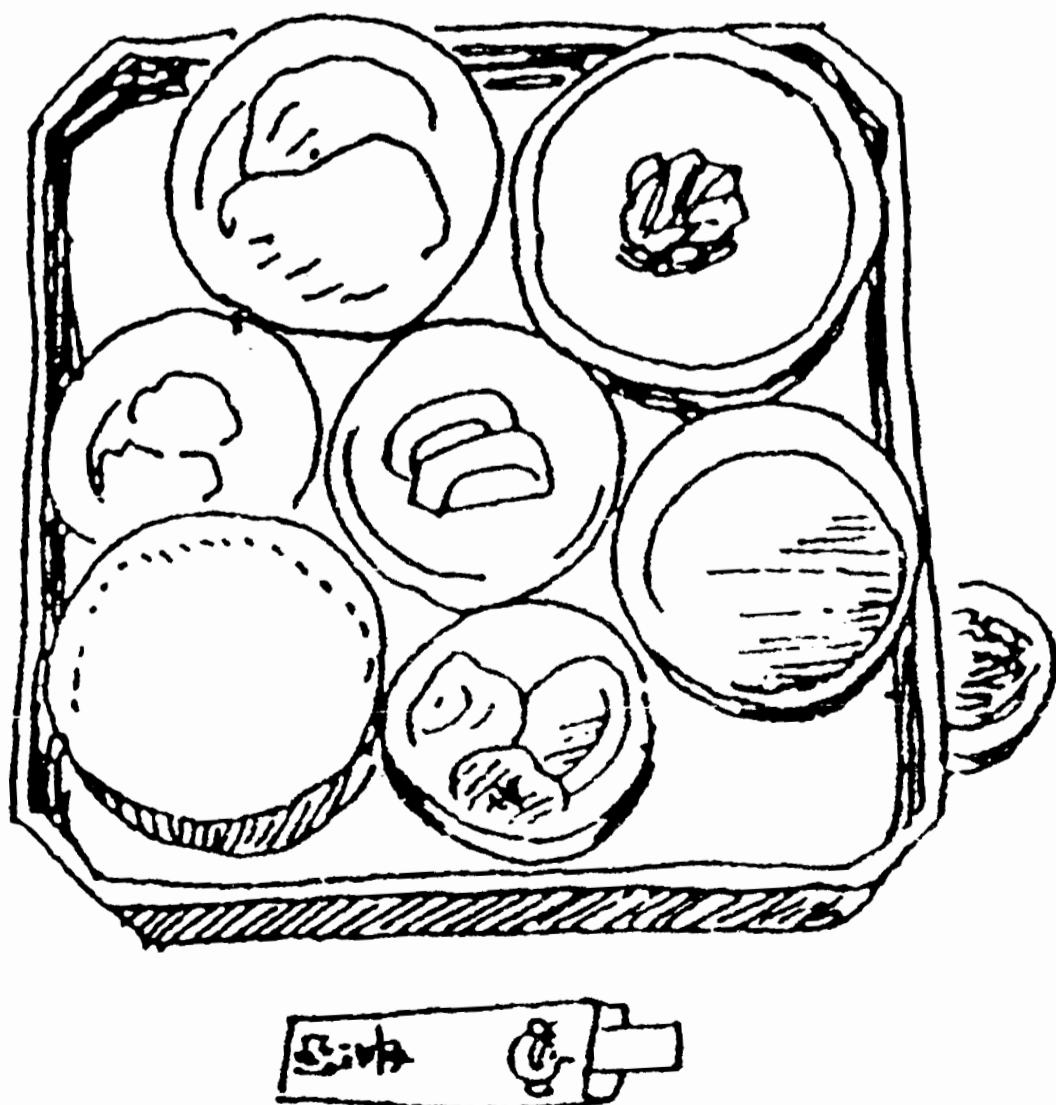
Prayer for prosperous business and family well-being is given to the participants and a vegetable diet is served. Accommodations are available.

Prayer fee 3,000 yen or more
(including meal)

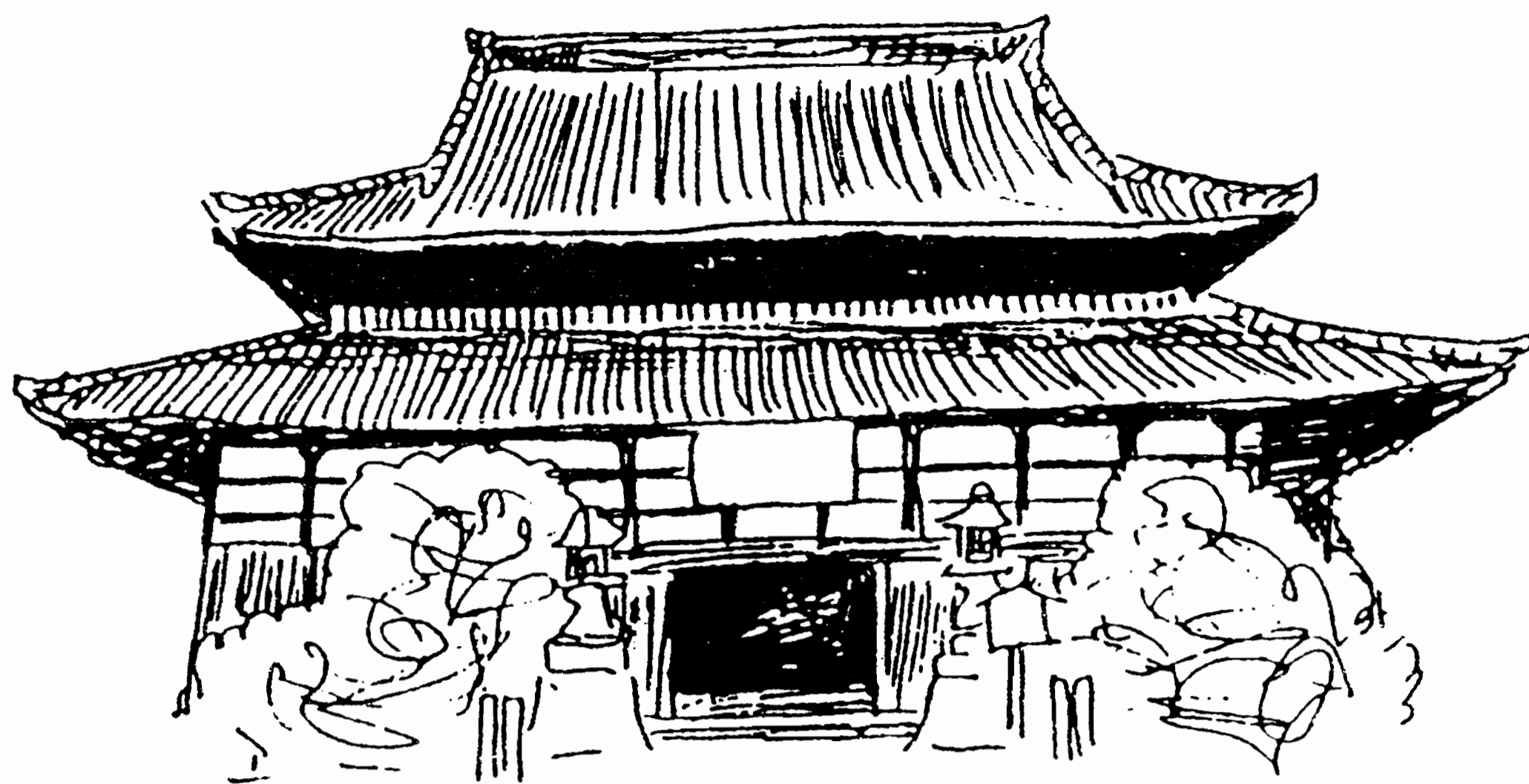
Reception From 6:00AM —
3:40PM
(Tele. 5-2030)

vegetable dishes

Accommodation fee
7,000yen With
2 meals



Pass through the main gate of the Buddhist temple, go straight and you'll find the Hattou(Enpukusan Myogon Temple).



③ Enpukusan Myogon Temple

Myogon temple was established at Enpuku-ga-oka near Toyokawa town in 1441 by Zen priest Tokai Gieki. It was moved to the present place in 1689.

The temple was burnt down by fires, but it was rebuilt each time. The present temple was built in 1830-1843. The building is 24 meters wide and 20 meters deep with a double layered roof. The main god is Senju-Kannon bosatsu image which was brought from China by the priest Kangan.

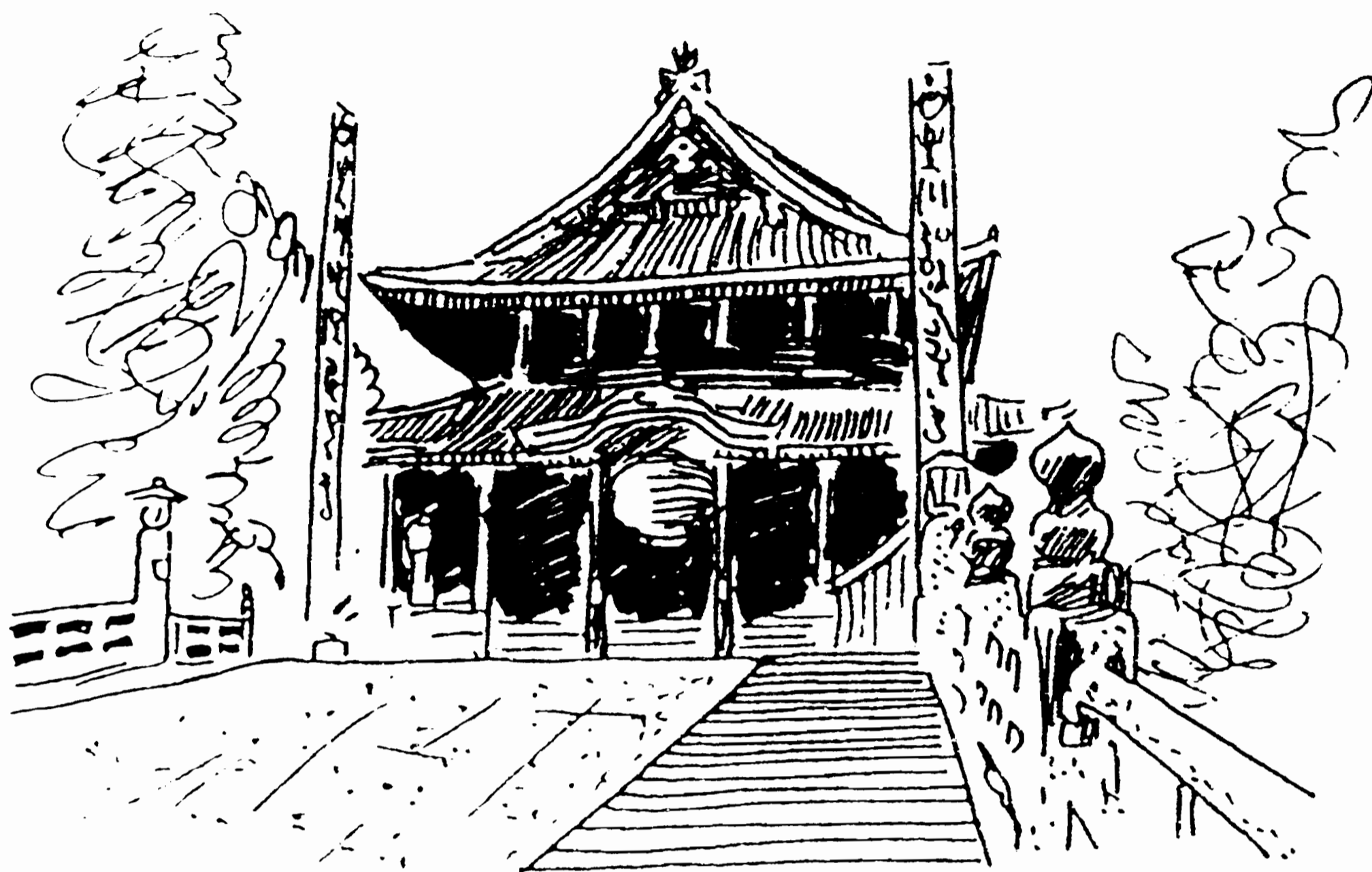
Before you go up the stairs to the main shrine, take a look at the left. There is a stone monolith of Taneda Santoka.



TANEDA SANTOKA(1882~1940)

He was born into a big landlord family in Bofu-city, Yamaguchi Pre. in 1882. His father and he set up a sake brewery, but they were unsuccessful in the business and became bankrupt. Later he became a priest and spent all his life on a wandering journey, enjoying sake and making haiku-poems. He is called a "Basho" of recent times. One of his best works is titled "Somokuto".

Turn left at the Hattou, and you'll find the Toyokawa Inari Honden (main shrine) behind the big Shinto shrine gate.



Omikuji is a written message on the oracle paper (bearing certain Chinese characters corresponding to good fortune or bad fortune).

Daikichi means good fortune.

④ Toyokawa Inari Honden

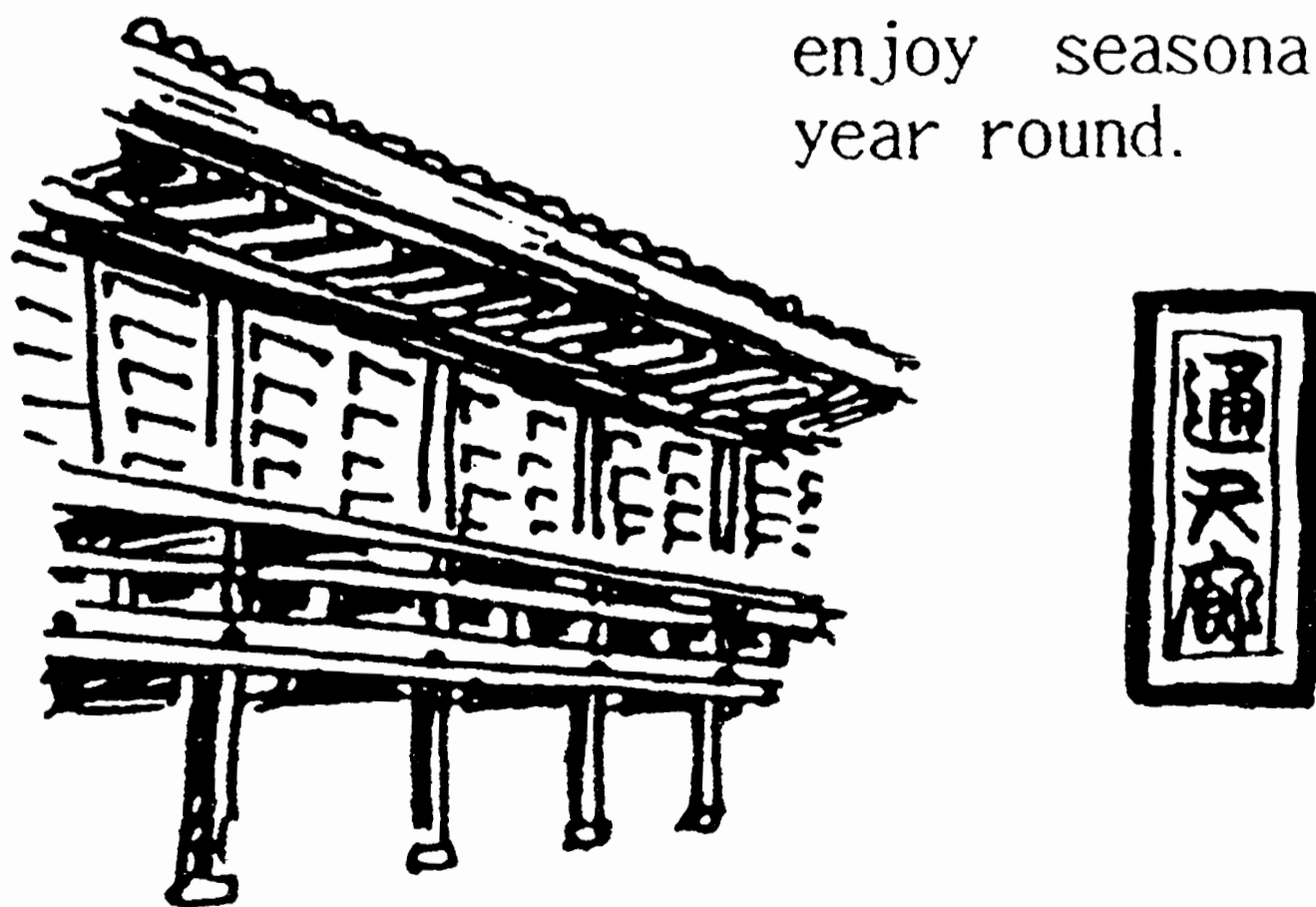
Toyokawa Dakini Shinten, the guardian god of Myogon temple, has been enshrined here since the temple was founded in 1441. In the Meiji Era, zen master Mokudo, the 29th successor of the temple was divinely inspired to drastically remodel the Honden Main Hall, because of an increase of worshipers at the shrine. The ground-breaking ceremony was held in 1908. It was completed 22 years later, in 1930, at great expenses.

The building is entirely made of zelkova wood, and is double-roofed with a facade. The width is a little more than 18 meters, the depth a little more than 40 meters, and the height a little more than 30 meters, with 72 round pillars that are 54 centimeters to 1 meter in diameter. We hope you will enjoy this historical treasure. It is said that you will have good luck and wisdom if you chant on "shi ra batta ni ri un so wa ka" 21 times.



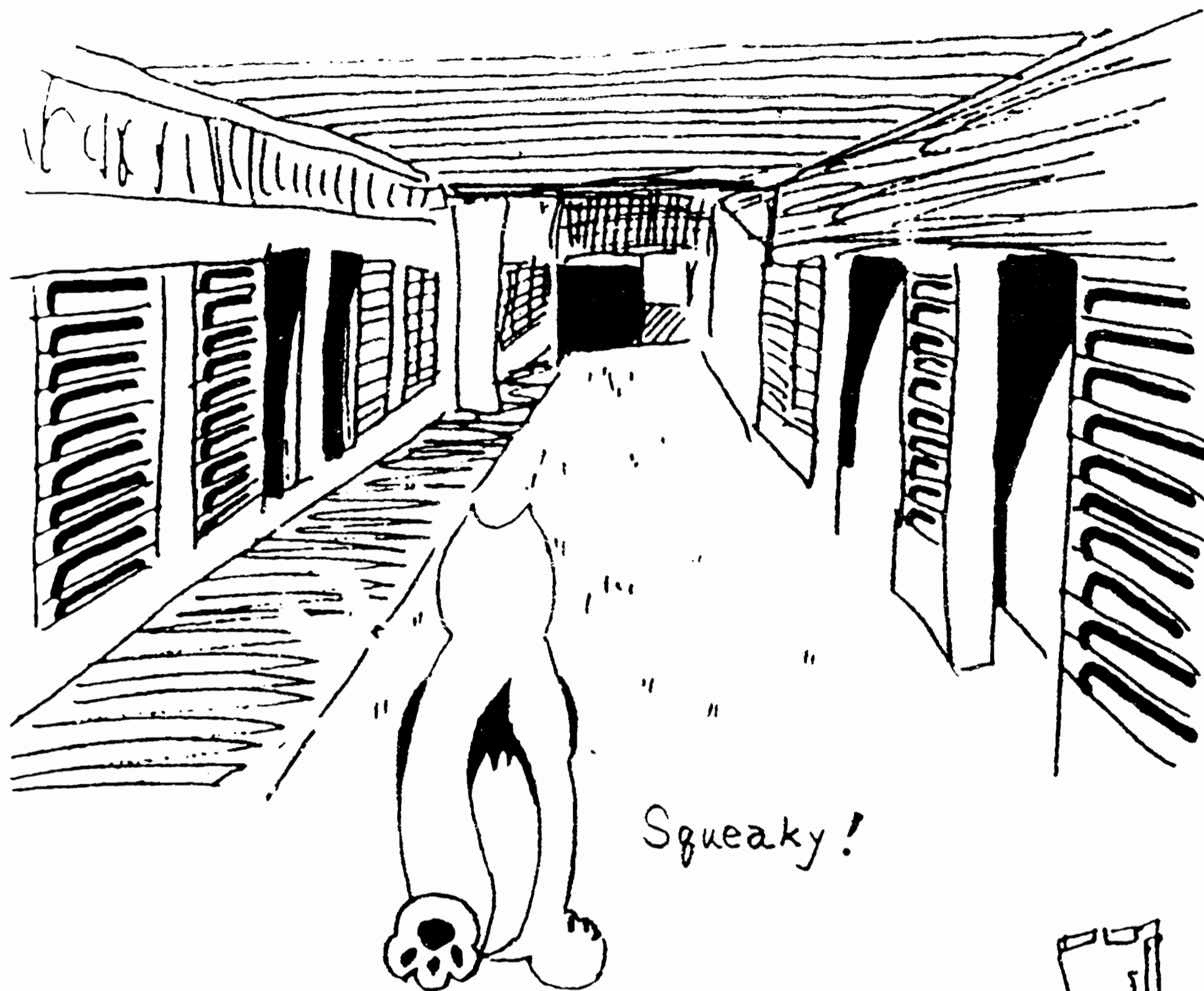
⑤ Myogon Temple Garden

Myogon temple garden to the right of Toyokawa Inari honden was made in the early Edo period(18th century) and designated as one of Japanese scenic gardens in 1941. There are 990 square meters. You'll find Mikasayama-mound, dry water fall and pond in which carps and tortoises live. You can enjoy seasonal flowers all the year round.



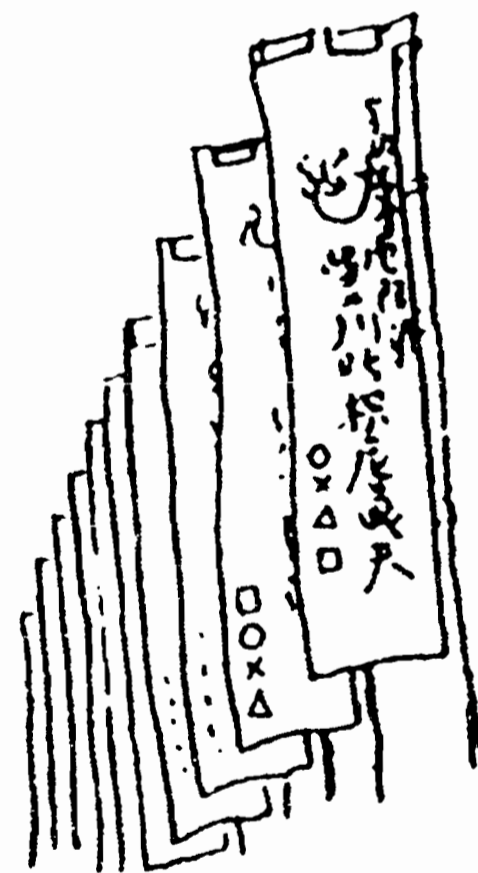
7 Tsutenro

Tsutenro is a two storied roofed corridor connecting Hatto and Honden. Built in 1930, it is 4 meters wide and 200 meters long. The ceiling is made of camphor wood and the rest of Japanese cedar wood. The floor makes squeaky sound when you walk along on it. We call the structure "uguisubari".



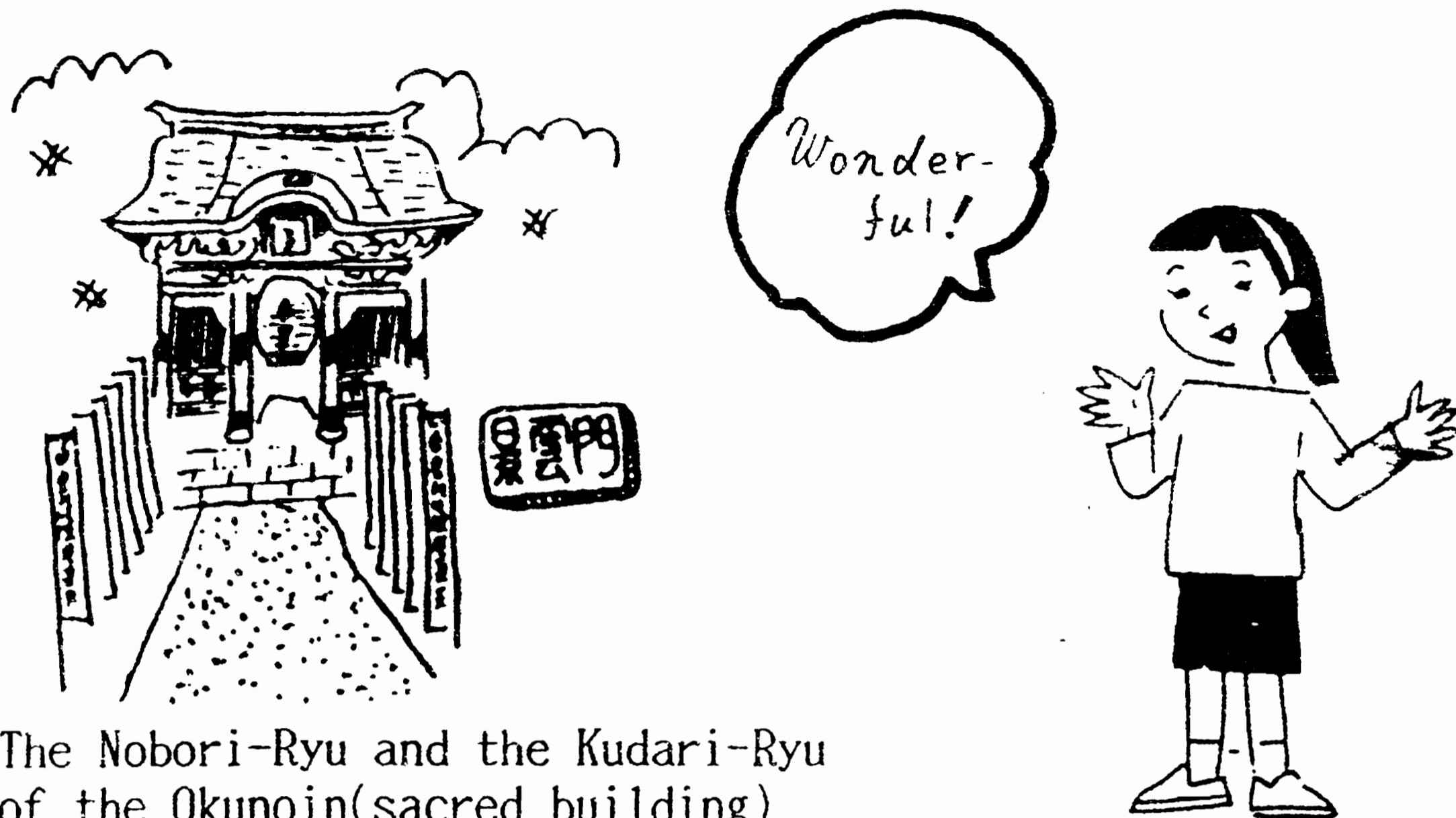
8 Senbon Nobori

The paths in the Okunoin area in the north of Honden are lined with Senbon Nobori flags written by people hoping to have their wishes fulfilled. Senbon Nobori literally means a thousand flags, but actually more than one thousand flags are standing. The scenery is worth seeing. You can't miss it.



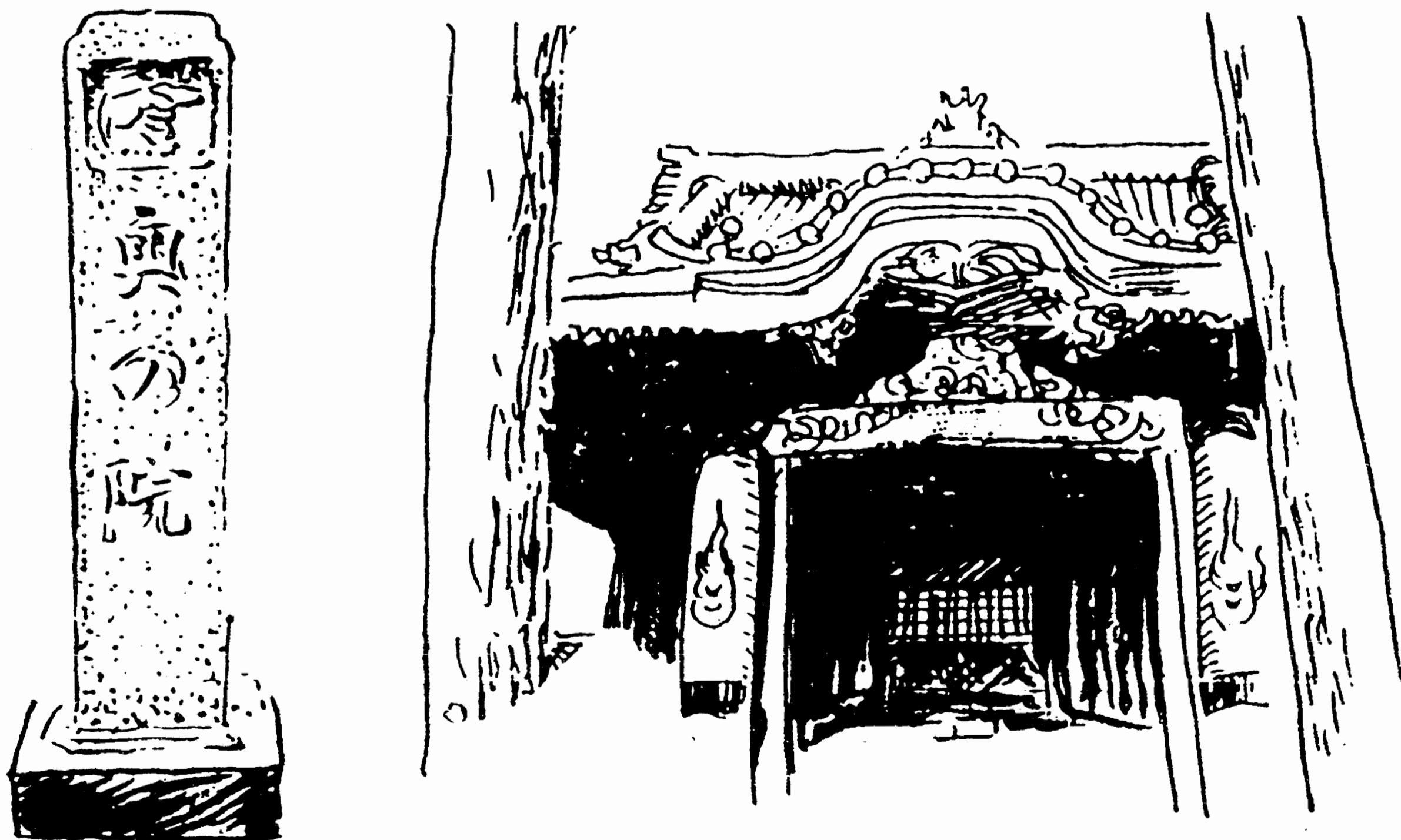
- Prayer's items - - - - -
- family well-being
 - business prosperity
 - traffic safety
 - success in entrance exam.
 - getting a good marriage
 - birth without complications
 - etc.

Pass through the wonderful sculptured Keiun gate and you'll come to the Okunoin(sacred building).

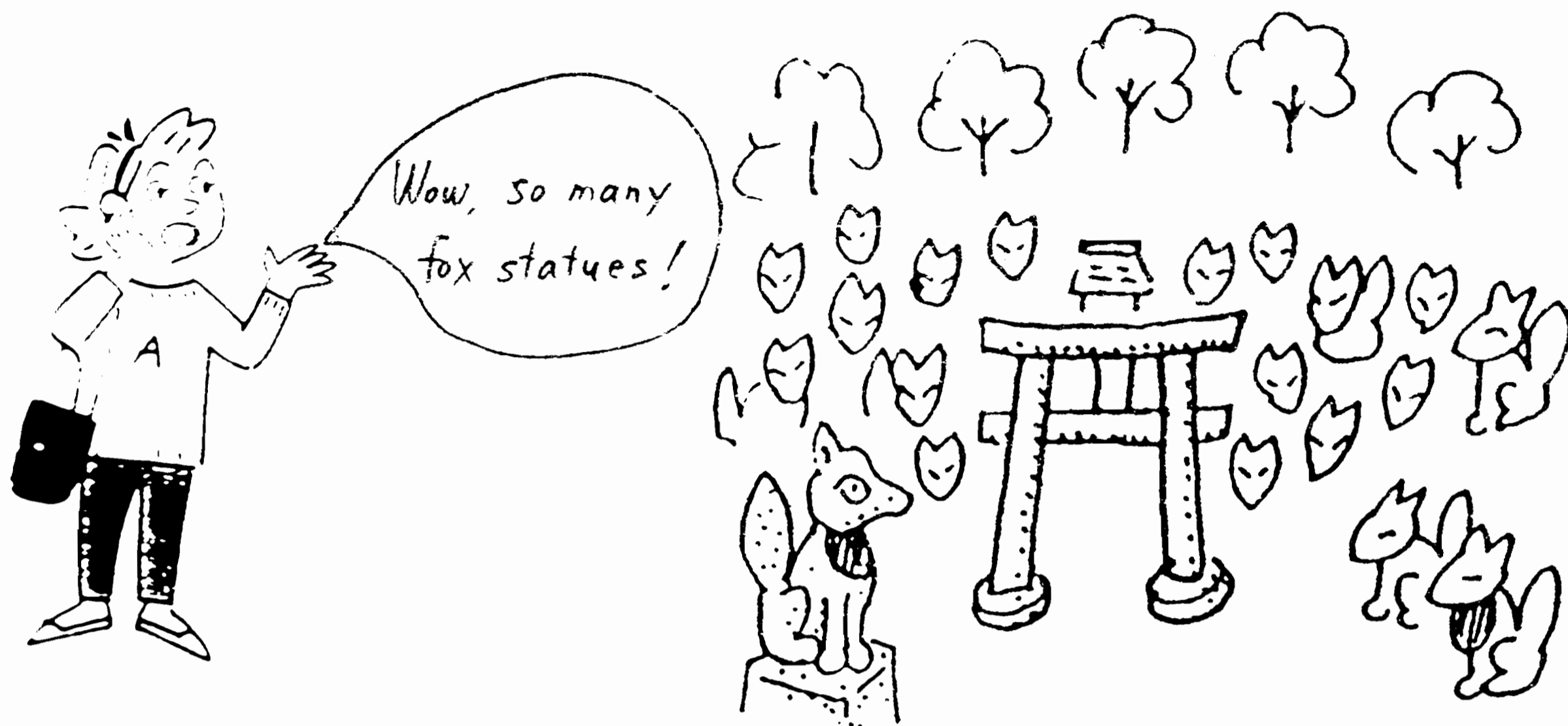


⑧The Nobori-Ryu and the Kudari-Ryu of the Okunoin(sacred building)

The Okunoin built in 1847 is the former main shrine of Toyokawa Inari. In those days, most people were faithful to Inari. Many of existing sculptures in the Toyokawa Inari were made by Tomimasa Kazushiro Tachikawa and his pupil Tunezo Miyasaka. The ones you shouldn't miss are the Nobori-Ryu (ascending dragon) and the Kudari-Ryu(descending dragon), which were carved on the beams of the sanctuary. Those are so powerful and splendid that you will be overwhelmed.



As you leave Okunoin, turn right at the first corner. You'll find a path which leads to Reiko-Zuka. There are lots of stone foxes which may frighten you.



3 Fox Mound

301 fox statues were enshrined here, which were set as messengers of Dakinishinten, the guardian God to all Inaris in Japan. The believers would offer more statues when their prayers were fulfilled, so the number is uncountable. In the 1920's some real foxes seem to have been kept here.



⑩ D a i k o k u t e n (The god of good rice harvest)

Daikokuten is enshrined in the small shrine built of dirt. If we rub the stone statue of Daikoku god standing in front of the shrine and keep its powder in our purse, people believe that they can become wealthy. Owing to the loss of being whittled down by so many people rubbing it, the old statue had to be replaced by a new one.

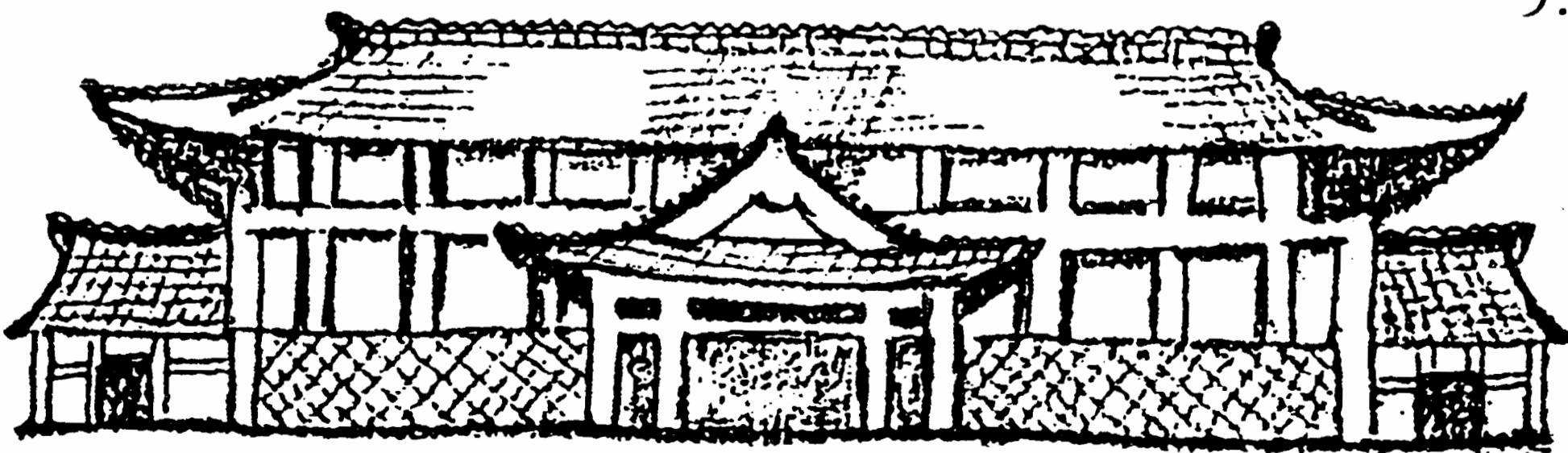


J i h o k a n M u s e u m

You can see a ferro-concrete building with two stories, when you go through Somon gate and turn left. This is the Toyokawa-kaku Jihokan museum, in which a lot of traditional treasures of Toyokawa Inari are displayed.

Here is the Image of Jizobosatsu registered as a national treasure. You can also see Oka Echizen's (a famous judge) favorite Japanese Chess board, Sugoroku board (like Backgammon), Go board, Japanese swords, Hanging scrolls, etc. These treasures are very interesting. The museum has a multi-purpose hall and lounge as well.

- open time -
9:00AM ~ 4:00PM



Take the right path behind Daikokuten statue and you will come to Zen-do Temple. Take a right turn after Zen-do, and then you will come to the back entrance of Toyokawa Inari. It is the end of the tour of Toyokawa Inari.

The following is a main annual event of Toyokawa Inari, and the main gate is open from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

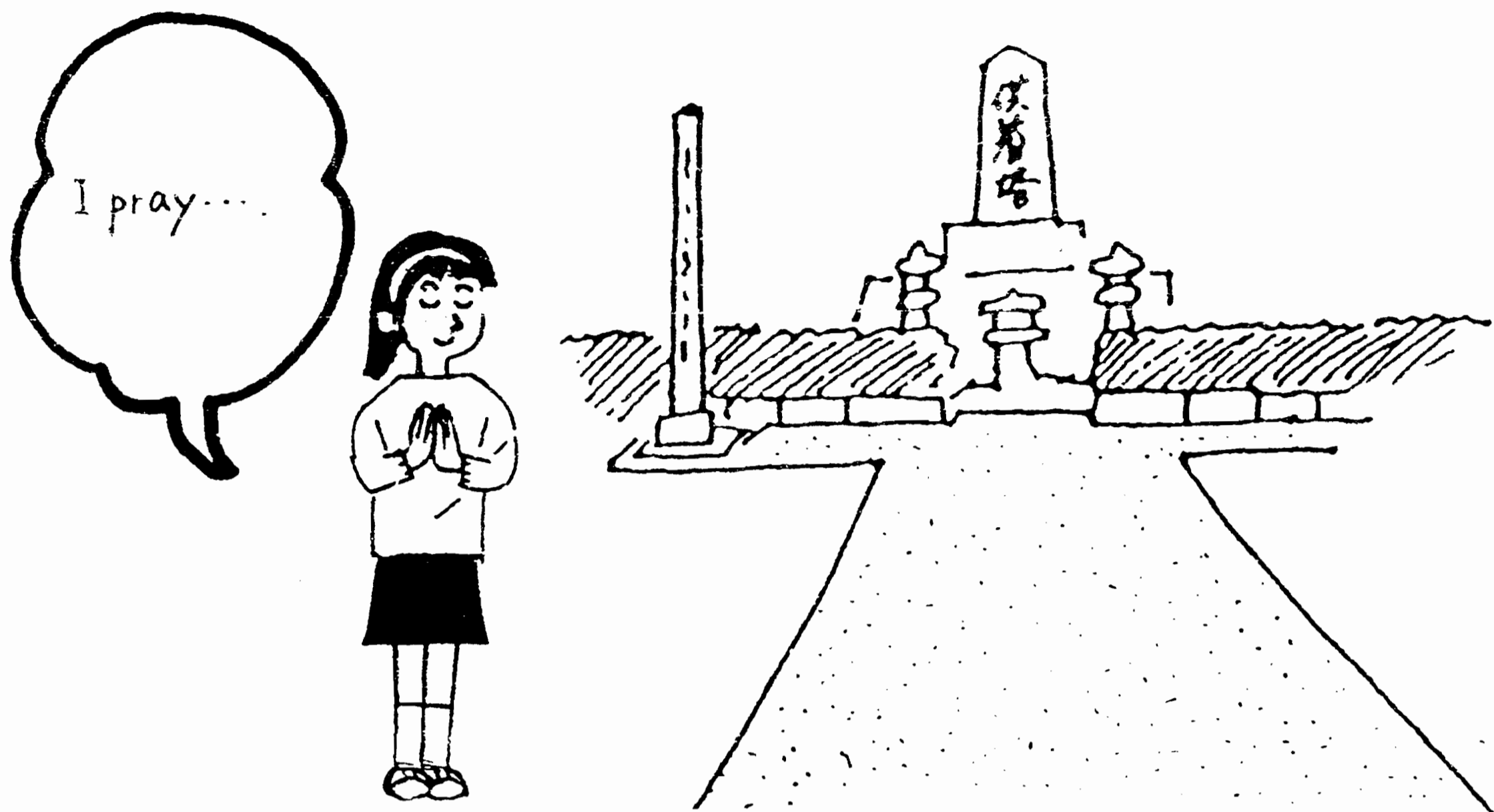
- New Year's visit
January 1st to 15th
- The First Horse Day Festival
The first "Horse Day" in February
- Spring Festival
May 4th and 5th
- Bon Festival
August 7th and 8th
- Autumn Festival
November 22nd and 23rd
- Monthly Festival
22nd, monthly



The big lanterns

During the Autumn Festival there is a parade of big floats and dressed-up children. Lanterns, large and small, are lit at the festival. The biggest lanterns are 5 meters in diameter and 1 meter in length. The candles in those lanterns are 35 centimeters in diameter, 1 meter in height and 50 kilograms in weight.

Go through the back gate of Toyokawa Inari, and you'll find a big memorial monument on the right.



The Memorial Monument to the War Dead

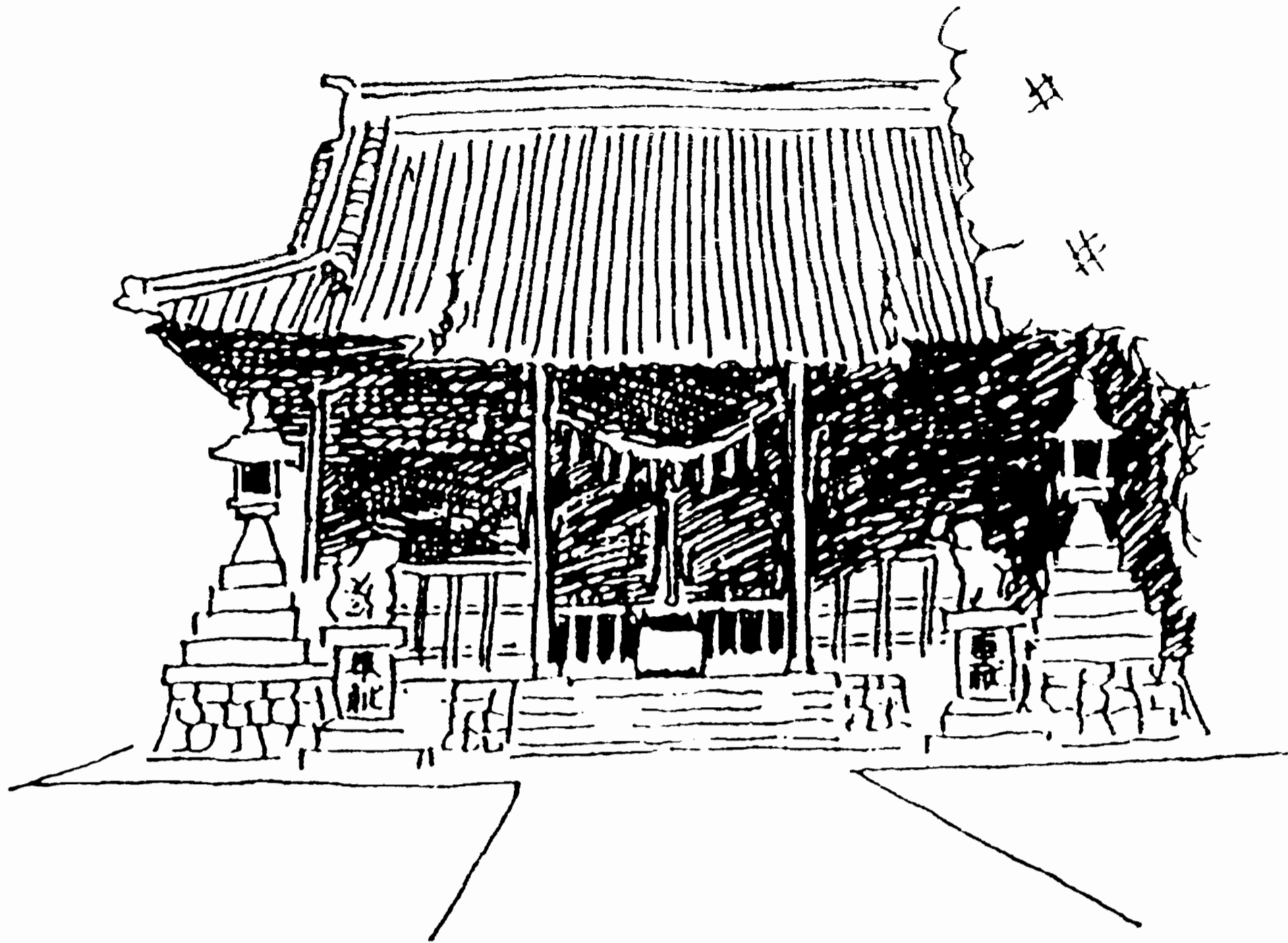
During the World War II, there was a naval arsenal in Toyokawa which was said to be the biggest one in the East Asia. On August 7, 1945—one week before the end of the war—a number of American B-29 squadrons attacked and bombed the naval arsenal. More than 2000 people working were killed. The monument was erected for the repose of the war dead.

Inari Park is located across the street.

Inari Park

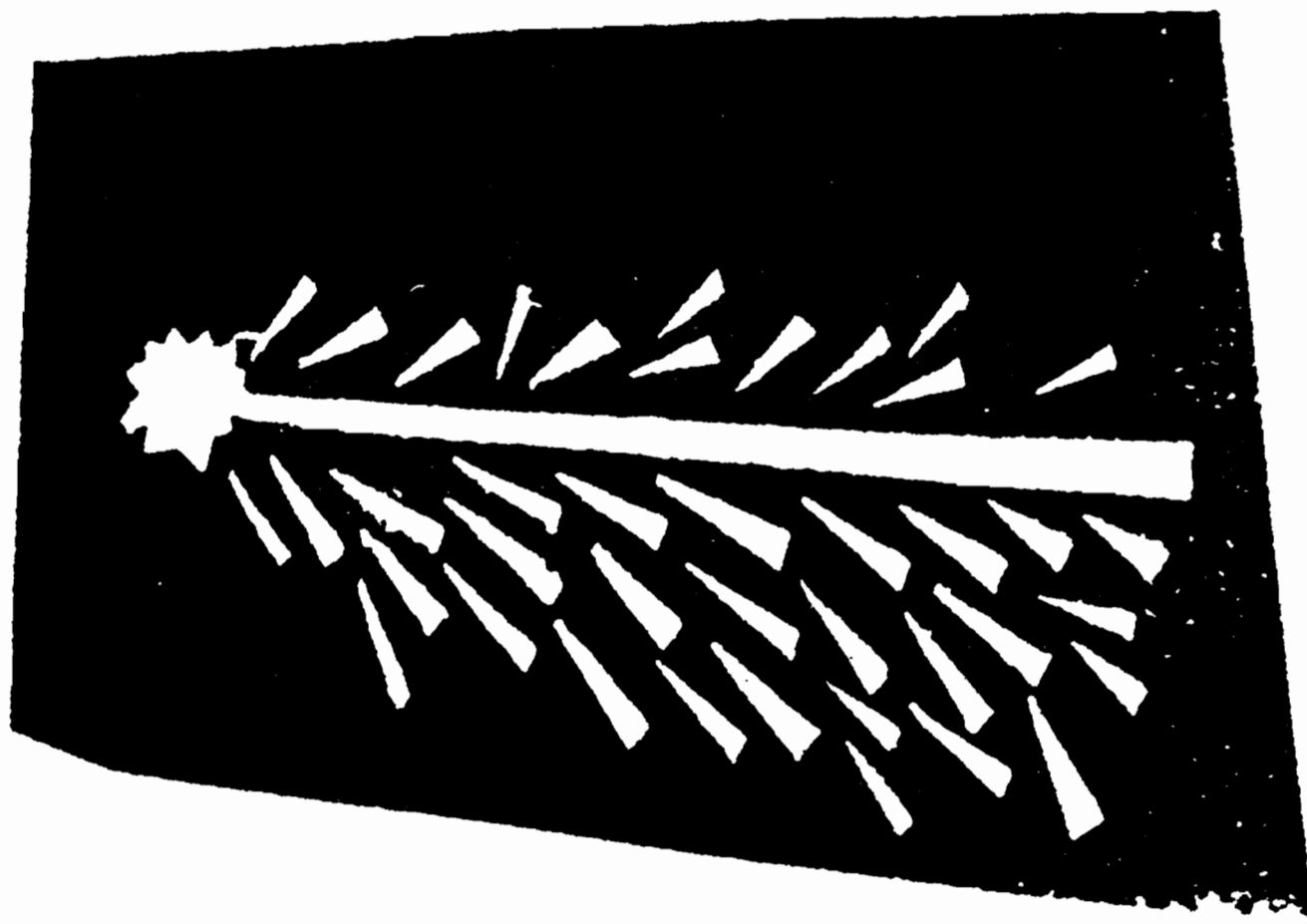
People enjoy walking and playing in the park. Also there is an open air stage and a fountain.





S u s a n o o S h r i n e

Susano Shrine holds its biggest festival of the year around July 20. A main attraction at Susano shrine is tsunabi-rope fireworks. This is quite rare in the Mikawa area, the birthplace of rocket fireworks. The rope is 120-meter-long. To this rope many bamboo cylinders loaded with gunpowder are attached. It's breathtaking to see the cylinders of fire rushing from torii gate to the worship hall in the dark. Dynamic rope fireworks have wide variations, such as yari(a spear), ikiwakare(splitt- ing), kurumabi(a wheel), ikimodori(going and coming back), tatsunabi(a chasing rope). This tsunabi is dedicated to god in a sacred ritual. It is also well known to the neighboring commu- nity as one of the po- pular summer evening events. Tsunabi has been designated as a cultural asset.



I'm the conqueror
of the
eight-headed
serpent!

Susanoo-mikoto, the hero of Japanese
mythology, is enshrined in it. He is
believed as an agriculture's god.



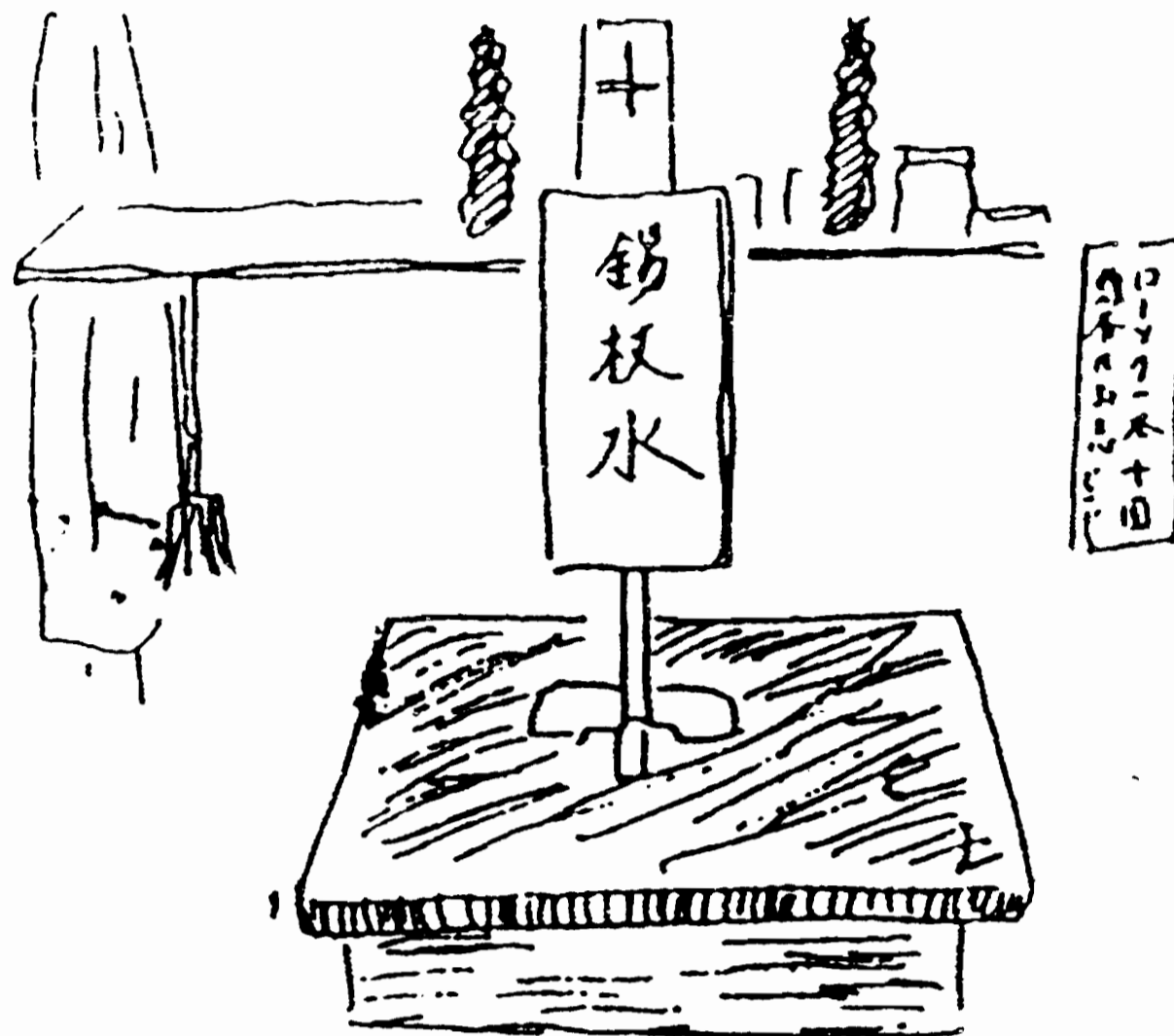
真夏の夜空
もこがす
勇壮な
手筒
てがわ

Go to the right from the hall of worship, and you can find the Shakujo well across the path.

ese
is

T o k u j o T e m p l e

This is Tokujo temple which belongs to the Soto sect and is famous for the Shakujo well. It's said that the high priest Kobo pointed to a certain place with Shakujo(a kind of stick) to dig the well, which has never dried up even during long droughts. Many people visit here to pray because they believe that you will get well soon by drinking the water.



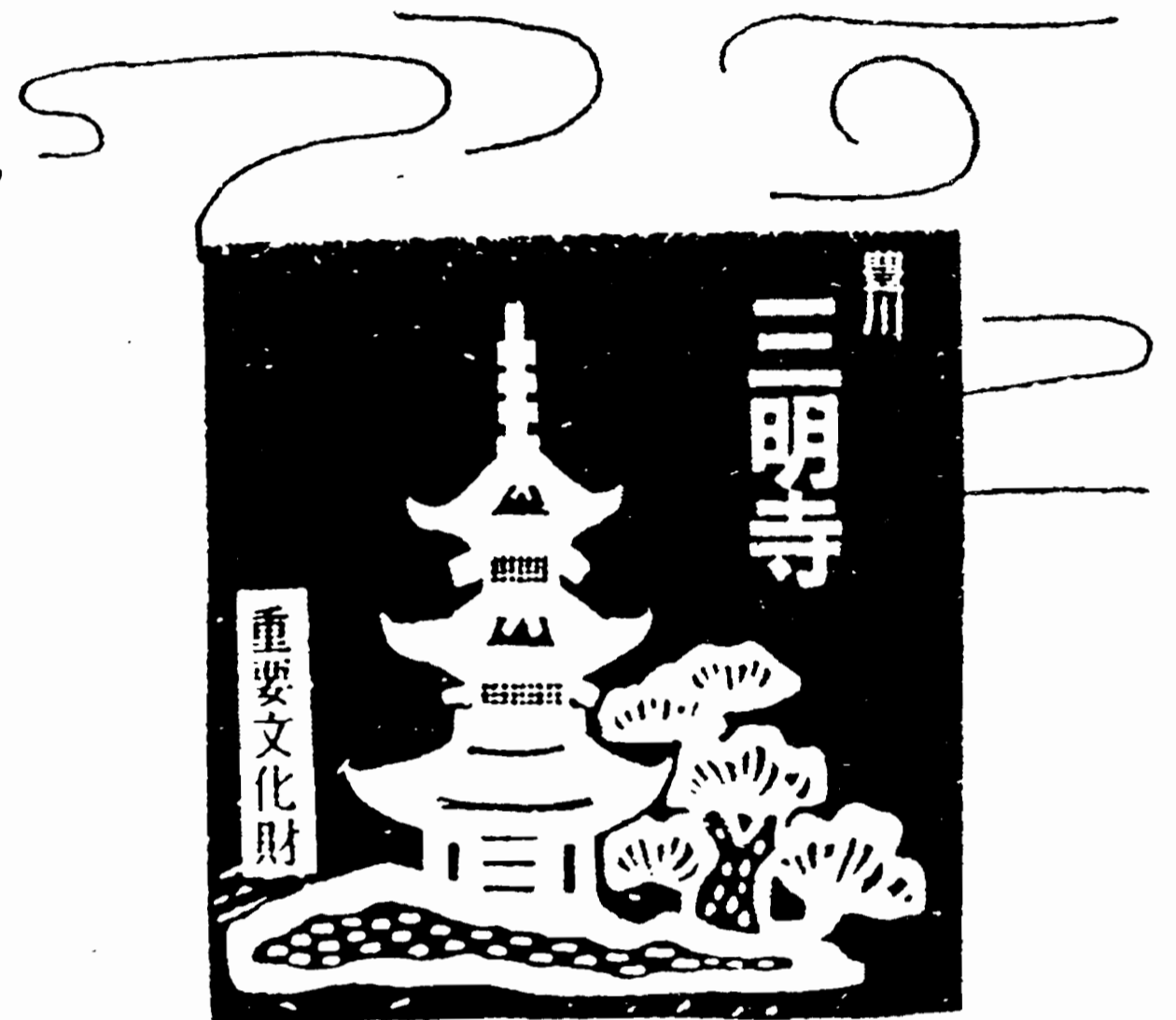
----- S h a k u j o W e l l -----

Long long ago, Kobo daishi(high priest) visited Toyokawa village. At that time he dropped in at a poor house, and asked the master of the house, "Could you give me a glass of water? I'm so thirsty." The master carried some water for him from far away Toyogawa river. Kobo daishi said to him, "It is the first time to drink such heart warming delicious water. Well, it should be inconvenient for you to go so far for the water. I will look for a well in return." Seeking a well with his stick, he said "Try to dig here."

When the master dug there, clear water gushed out and it never dried up even during the long droughts. Also people who drank this water recovered from illness and many villagers were thankful for the well.

Sanmyo Temple

Sanmyo temple is a historical Sodo sect Buddhist temple which was probably built in 702. The miniature temple in the main hall is recognized as a national treasure as well as the three storied pagoda. Benzaiten, one of the seven gods of good fortune, is very familiar with the people in the community. They call her "Benten-sama." There is a story about a "Umakata" (packhorse driver) passing along Hime-kaido street in front of Sanmyo temple. Benten-sama gave him a miraculous purse which never ran out money. Therefore Benten-sama is sometimes called "Umakata Benten."

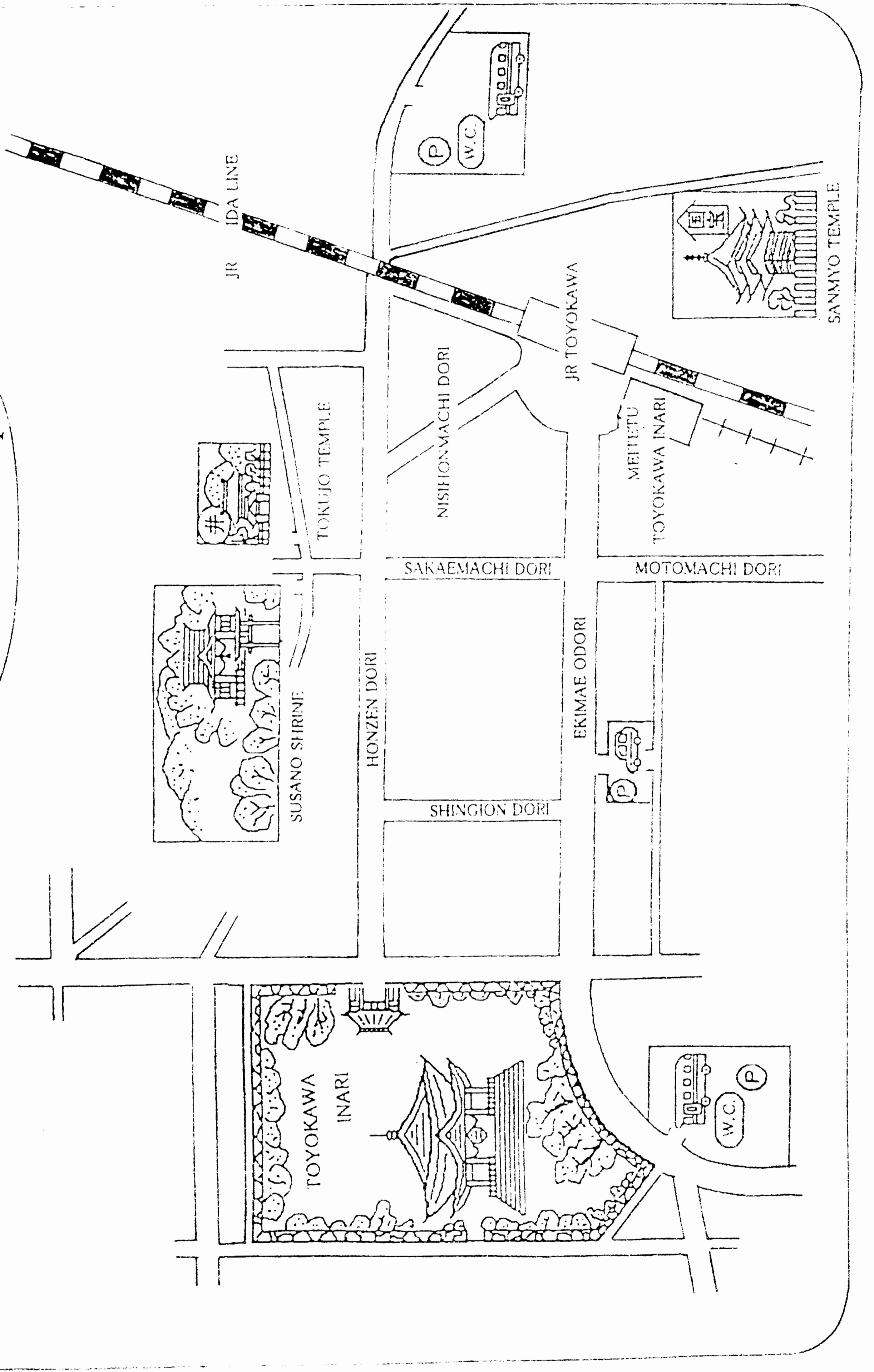


Umakata Benten

A long time ago, on a fall evening, a packhorse driver was singing and passing by Sanmyo temple on the way home. Suddenly a beautiful lady appeared and said, "I am the goddess Benten of Sanmyo temple and I always enjoy listening to your songs. So please sing songs for me whenever you pass this street. I will give you this magical purse in return. Whenever you open it, you can find money in it. But do not tell others that you got it from me." Then she vanished from sight.

Since he could buy anything with his magical purse, he got lazier drinking and not working every day. One day, when he was drinking with his coworkers, one of them asked "How do you make money without working?" He got so drunk that he let the secret out of the purse. Just then, he remembered the words which Benten had said and the money disappeared after that, he changed his ways and began to work hard.

Guide Map



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