

Official Name: Yakujusan Enmeiji

Sect: Omuro School of Shingonshu

Foundation: Approximately 1200 years ago.

Kobo-Daishi (one of the greatest and most popular Buddhist priests) visited here and found many kinds of herbs and trees useful in curing illness, as well as holly water flowing out of the ground. He felt this was a good place to propagate Buddhism and established a small temple. According to the legend, he was said to have carved an object of worship, a Jizo statue, by himself.

Restoration:

The current temple building was built about 330 years ago. There used to have been only a small Jizo statue in this location until that time. The Jizo statue was prayed to by believers in this area called the Enmeiji Group. In 1639, the priest, Jogon, was born here. He trained hard by himself for more than 20 years on Mt. Koya. After coming back home, he restored this temple, and named it after the Enmeiji Group. He enshrined Nyoirin Kannon Bosatsu as the principal statue of worship. There are some stone monuments located in front of the main gate. The largest one explains the rules of the Shingon Sect of Buddhism, such as, you are not allowed to bring meat, sake or any vegetables with a strong aroma, such as garlic or leeks, into the temple compound. The smaller monument is of the samurai warrior, Masato Wada. He was a feudal lord of the Kusunoki family. After his death, he was buried in this temple.

The Training Place (Hokodo):

It was built for the purpose of continuing missionary work toward the end of the 19th century.

Kuri and Main Reception Hall:

The Kuri is used as the residence of the priest's family, as well as a reception area for visitors.

The Main Hall:

The main building was built in 1696. It was damaged by two different fires, and the recent building was rebuilt in 1973. The priest Jogon, as mentioned earlier, was born here and returned from his religious training on Mt. Koya, converting

his house into a Shingonshu temple in 1677. The central part of the passage to the main hall from the main gate is said to be used by the Buddha, so visitors should remember to avoid walking along the center of it. Nyoirin Kannon Bosatsu is enshrined as the principal object of worship. It gives one a warm smile and offers help to people with problems. A Jizo statue and eleven male Kannon Bosatsu statues are enshrined along the sides of the Buddha. They are said to gently save us from anguish if we pray to them.

Komyodo:

This is where memorial services are held. The principal image is Amidanyorai portrayed in a dark-red color.

Bishamondo (Gomado):

Seven kinds of images of the Buddha are enshrined here. The statue in the center is called Bishamonten. He was an Indian god who became the Buddhist guardian deity to keep away evil off and a symbol of victory in war.

Jizodo (the temple to enshrine Jizo statue):

According to the legend, this stone Jizo was made by Kobo-Daishi by himself. It was designated a cultural asset by Kawachinagano City.

Treasure House:

Many treasures are preserved in it. Two of them are considered important cultural properties. One is a standing statue of Shaka Nyorai, the founder of Buddhism, made in the early 13th century. The other is a mandala picture on the silk fabric. It is preserved in Osaka City Museum at this moment. A bow and an arrow made of peach wood are stored here and are said to have been used to kill a demon (Oni in Japanese) as mentioned in a local legend.

The Sunset Maple Tree:

This tree was designated by Osaka Prefecture as a famous natural monument. It is believed to be between eight hundred to one thousand years old and is thought to have been planted by Kobo-Daishi himself. This tree stands nine meters tall with a trunk five meters in circumference. Its branches extend up to 12 meters in its east-west axis. The trunk branches out in two directions at the base. The name, "Sunset Maple", originated from its most imposing silhouette

when viewed during a late autumnal sunset. It is said that its maple leaves look similar to a baby's hand. Ancient Japanese are said to have associated a baby's vigor and innocence with the Buddha.

The Lotus Pond:

The Lotus flower is the symbol of the Buddhist Paradise Heaven. It grows in the mud yet blooms beautifully. In the center of this pond, there is a small, seven-storied tower enshrining Benten, the god of water.

Gumonjido:

This is a place where one can train to improve one's memory.

The Tomb of Tonomo Ueda:

Ueda took up arms against the Tokugawa shogunate. He supported the cause of the last feudal emperor in the 19th century.

The Tomb of Priest Jogon:

When he was 51 years old, Jogon was offered the opportunity to travel to Edo (Tokyo) by the feudal lord, Honda, in order to pray for his son's recovery from an illness. He taught the theory of Buddhism to the 5th shogun, Tsunayoshi Tokugawa, and won a place of honor. Other feudal clans also came to trust him. Eventually, he became the greatest priest in Edo. He died there at the age of 64.