

The Legend of Hayataro, the Holy Dog

In the early days in the 14th century, there lived devilish monsters in a part of the town called Fuchu (at present, Iwata City in Shizuoka).

The monsters kept afflicting people with calamities, therefore they had to offer a maiden to the monsters every year as a human sacrifice in order to soothe its violence.

One day, a supernatural revelation told a holy priest in Fuchu that only the "Hayataro" could stand up against the monsters. Hayataro was not a man, he was a very strong big dog lived in Kozen-ji temple in Nagano.

The priest immediately came up to Kozen-ji, and borrowed the dog and took him to the town.

One night, the monsters were attacked by Hayataro. After the terrible long struggle, Hayataro killed them all and saved the curse-stricken town.

Since then people believed that Hayataro was the incarnation of Fudo-myō-ō that could get rid of all miseries in the human world. And this story became popular as the legend of Hayataro.

The priest dedicated a copy of the Great Wisdom Sutra to Kozen-ji for Hayataro's memorial service.



The Garden

The whole garden premises in Kozen-ji are designated as a national place of scenic beauty by the Cultural Properties Protection Committee of the Ministry of Education in 1967.



The Luminous Moss

In the garden of Kozen-ji, you may see the luminous moss. It grows naturally in the holes of the stone walls along the road to the shrine.

Access

交通のご案内

Chuo express way komagane I.C 1.2km

中央自動車道駒ヶ根I.Cより、西方1.2km

JR Iida Line komagane St. 4km

JR飯田線・駒ヶ根駅下車、西方4km

Kozen-ji Temple

光前寺

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Shinshu
Komagane

Kozen-ji Temple



天台宗 別格本山
一宝積山 光前寺

天台宗 別格本山



The Kozen-ji Temple was founded by Holy Priest Honjyou in 860 A.D., in the reign of Emperor Seiwa. This temple belongs to the Tendai Buddhist sect, being a branch of the Enryaku-ji Temple in Kyoto.

The guardian deity, Fudo-myō-ō (Acala) is enshrined in Kozen-ji as the principal image of Buddhist. However, it is strictly forbidden to show this statue to the public.

Kozen-ji is a sacred place of worship for many people for more than eleven centuries. Thus, this temple has been the religious center and the cultural center of this district. It was also the place for study of Buddhism and training for the priesthood. Many virtuous priests were educated here to learn the Wisdom of Buddha.

Kozen-ji has suffered a number of fires in the course of its long history. And many historical documents dating back to the old times were lost to the ashes. Besides, several smaller temples, that once belonging to Kozen-ji were all discontinued during the Meiji Era (1868-1912). And today, only the central temple is preserved.

Therefore, Kozen-ji is still one of the biggest and oldest temples in Nagano. There are twelve historical buildings remains surrounded by many gigantic ancient trees.

The deep stillness and the scenic beauty of this temple is widely acknowledged.