

















### The Ōyamadera Temple

—Shingon Sect

The Ōyamadera temple has been popularly known as "Ōyama-Fudo". The temple is said to have been founded in the seventh year of Tenpyoshobo (A.D. 755) by Rohben, head priest of the Todaiji temple in Nara as a memorial to his parents. In his infancy Rohben was carried away by a large hawk. While traveling all over Japan in search of him, his parents became blind and lived as beggars, when the god Fudo guided the son to his parents. This story is recorded in the ancient book of pictures of Ōyamadera history.

The emperor Shomu, who had deep faith in Rohben, was strongly moved by the story of their reunion and gave the temple imperial protection. Though several calamities befell on it, the temple was rebuilt each time with the help of Kamakura, Ashikaga, and Tokugawa governments.

The temple contains national assets such as iron statues of Fudo, Kongaradoji, and Seitakadoji. They are said to have been cast by a Buddhist saint Gangyō (about 1270 A.D.). There are also many other Buddhist images including the wooden Fudo statues carved in the early Heian period (A.D. 782-897).

The temple, previously, had been a training center of Shugendo, a mountain religion which developed from the ancient Japanese fortune-telling. It was the fortune-tellers who had made the temple familiar to the common people. The masks of the Tengu, a kind of goblin, are sold at the souvenir shop even

鎌倉時代(一二七〇年頃)大山寺中興の祖、願行人(上人)作と重要文化財である。他に平安前期(七八二―八九七)の木じめ多くの仏像がある。

この寺はかつて、日本古来の予言者から発展した山を道」の道場で、大山不動信仰を世に広めたのは、この路つた。今でもその象徴である天狗の面が土産店で売られ、庶民が期待する大山不動尊信仰の特別の冥加は、農・職人・技芸人等多くの人々の間で、その子供達が親の職を継ぎ、栄えるよう、加護を受けることであった。

昭和五十七年十一月三日

伊勢原ライオ





















