

Taira no Masakado's Memorial Places

Kokuou- Jinjya (The King Shrine) . . . Iwai City

This is the shrine that enshrines Taira no Masakado. It was said that Masakado's third daughter, Nyozouni, built the hermitage, and enshrined the wooden sculpture of Masakado as a god (kami).

Enmei- in (the Life Extention House) . . . Iwai City

There is a mound where Masakado's body without his head was buried. It is called "The Mt.Masakado".

Kaizen- ji . . . Moriya City

This temple was built by Taira no Masakado in the 10th century. It is dedicated to the Buddha that Masakado's third daughter, Nyozouni, worshipped. Masakado's spirit was enshrined in the new King's Shrine, and called "Kokuou-Myoujin". There are the memorial grave stones of Masakado and his seven doubles.

Masakado's Head Grave . . . Tokyo Otemachi

Masakado's head was sent to Kyoto and exposed at the gate. But then somebody took it to the east Musashi prefecture, Toshima, in the Shibasaki area where it was buried. But later, many misfortunes happened in that area. In 1307 the monk Synkyo enshrined Masakado's spirit in the Kanda Shrine that was near Masakado's Head Grave.

Kanda- Myojin . . . Tokyo Kanda

This shrine was built in the 8th century. Daikoku-sama(Country prosperity, good marriage), Ebisu-sama(good trade, health), Masakado-sama(talisman, luck),are enshrined here. Eastern generals ,warriors, Ota Dokan who built Edo Castle in the 15th century, and Ieyasu Tokugawa, the founder of the Edo Bakufu(government) worshipped at Kanda- Myojin. In the Kanda Myojin Museum you can see pictures of "Taira no Masakado and his seven doubles" and the Buddha sculpture of the Big Dipper which is supposed to have been carved by Masakado himself.

Kanda Festival

The Kanda Shrine Festival. It is one of three big festivals in Edo(the old name of Tokyo).Another name is Tenka Festival (world festival). In the Edo Period Mikoshi (portable shrines) were allowed to enter Edo Castle to be shown to the Shogun.

The festival takes place every two years. This year the dates are: 10~15 May 2007'