

## SENGEN SHRINE

### What is a shrine?

A Jinja is a Shinto Shrine, including its surrounding natural area.

It is said that in Japan, there are millions of gods and goddesses who represent various parts of nature. Shrines are constructed for the purpose of worshipping kami (the Japanese word for god or goddess).

### Shrine Etiquette?

**1** Go to Temizuya (the water basin at the entrance) before praying at a shrine.

**2** Take the ladle in the right hand, scoop water and pour it over the left hand.

**3** Then take the ladle in the left hand and cleanse the right hand.

**4** Take the ladle once more to the right hand and pour water into the cupped left hand. Use the water to rinse the mouth.

**5** Wash the left hand once more.

**6** Return the ladle to its original position.

## SENGEN SHRINE

**Location:** Koya, Moriya City

Sengen Shrine is a typical Japanese Shinto Shrine. There are approximately 1300 Sengen Shrines in Japan. They worship the goddess Konohanasakuya-Hime. The main shrine is Fujisan Hongu Sengen Taisha, located in Fujinomiya in Shizuoka Prefecture.

Faith in the goddess of these shrines is related to the worshipping of Mount Fuji.

Sengen means volcano in Old Japanese, and the shrine was called Sengen for the reason of enshrining the god of volcanoes.

## **THE LADY WHO MAKES THE TREES BLOOM**

Ko-No-Hana-Sakuya-Hime, the “Lady Who Makes The Trees Bloom”, was the beautiful daughter of O-Yama-Tsumi, the Mountain God. Her elder sister was the ugly Iwa-Naga-Hime, the “Lady Of Rock Perpetuity”.

When Ninigi, the August Grandchild, descended to earth, he was attracted by the beauty of the Bloom Lady and asked her father`s consent to his marriage with her.

The father offered both his daughters, but Ninigi`s choice of course fell upon the younger. Soon a child was born to the Bloom Lady.

The Rock Lady said: “If the August Grandchild had taken me to wife, his descendants would have enjoyed a long life, everlasting as a rock; but since he married my younger sister, his prosperity will be frail and short-lived like the flowers of the trees.”

Since then, eternal life of deities had come to an end. Death became a natural event to deities.